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THE TIMES

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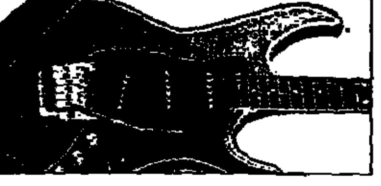
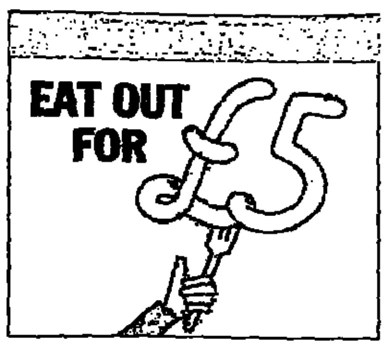




Cabinet unites behind call for delay

Major rules out joining EMU in 1999

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR yesterday effectively ruled out British membership of a single European currency in 1999 with a hardened Cabinet line intended to unite the Tories in the runup to the election.

The Government's most sceptical stance yet on the euro was seen by some Conservative MPs as the Prime Minister's boldest election initiative so far — and as a signal that he might be considering an early poll.

The statement, which also called for the European Union to delay the proposed start date of January 1, 1999, came after a 90-minute Cabinet debate on monetary union. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, emerged from Downing Street to say that it was "very unlikely" that Britain would sign up on the target date. And the Prime Minister swiftly followed with a declaration that both Britain's participation and the single currency itself were "very unlikely" at that date. Even the Euro-enthusiast Kenneth Clarke agreed, adding that he was doubtful whether anyone would be in a position to start in 1999.

Although the official wait-and-see policy was not formally abandoned yesterday, senior Cabinet sources virtually closed off any chance of Britain adopting the euro in 1999 when they said the preparatory legislation would not feature in the first Queen's speech after the election. They also said that it was unlikely that the necessary measures — such as making the Bank of England formally independent — would come forward during the next parliamentary session, which is expected to run until the late autumn of next year.

Once the impact of the various Cabinet statements had sunk in, Conservative MPs voiced relief that an approach that could unite most of the party had been forged. The former Chancellor Norman Lamont said: "A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step. I welcome anything that makes it less likely that we shall join the single currency."

The shift added to the electioneering mood at Westminster and made several MPs wonder whether the Prime Minister — who has consistently signalled that he favours May 1 — is considering going to the country earlier. Various other developments this week, including the announcement of a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and hints that the Moors murderer Myra Hindley will be kept in prison for life, have had an electoral flavour about them.

The Cabinet's move will also add to the pressure on Tony Blair to take a similar line. The Labour leadership has signalled privately that it would probably rule out joining the first wave of the single currency shortly after coming to office. Mr Blair will now face demands to make that position clear to avoid giving the Tories an advantage.

Yesterday's statements from the Cabinet came after a discussion of a Treasury paper setting out the criteria for determining whether it was safe for monetary union to go ahead. It concluded that the necessary figures would not be available until the end of the year, and was clearly intended to vindicate Mr Clarke's view that the wait-and-see policy must be retained.

But the key shift came in the Cabinet's decision — apparently pushed by Mr Major and backed by Mr Clarke — to make a preliminary assessment of the prospects.

It concluded that "upon the information available to us at present, we reached the conclusion that it was very unlikely, though not impossible, that countries' performance against the criteria would be sufficiently clear and stable for it to proceed safely on January 1, 1999. On that basis there is a strong argument for delay by the EU as a whole. If it did proceed without reliable convergence we would not, of course, be part of it."

Although some Treasury sources insisted last night that nothing had changed, Mr Clarke's friends said that he had been happy to go along with the new stance. He agreed it was "wildly unrealistic" both that the convergence criteria could be properly met or that Britain would be able to go in at the appointed time. "He has always thought it doubtful but he has wanted to get the best for Britain."

Peter Riddell, page 12
German opposition, page 14
***Leading article*, page 23**

Michelle, who suffered liver failure 13 days after taking drugs, including ecstasy

Drugs girl, 15 died after transplant was refused

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A GIRL aged 15 died after she was refused a liver transplant by doctors on the "moral grounds" that she had experimented with drugs and her mother was a drug user, an inquiry was told yesterday.

Carolann Paul, 37, told a fatal accident inquiry that doctors at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary told her that her daughter would die without a transplant. She was then told by Dr Niall Finlayson that a team decision had been made not to give Michelle a transplant.

Mrs Paul said: "He said the assessment had been made on moral grounds but added that it was not his decision. I asked if that meant her background and he said her background and her admitting that she had been experimenting with drugs and my own history.

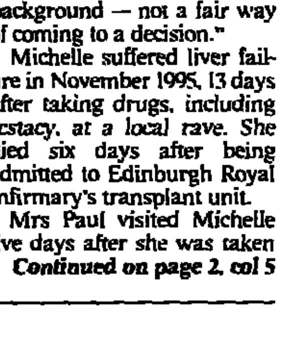
"I knew Michelle had acted irresponsibly by experimenting with drugs but knew that, when she woke up with the reality of what it could do to her she would take care of herself," she said.

Mrs Paul said that Dr Finlayson then offered to arrange a meeting with the consultant, Hilary Sanfey, and had told Mrs Paul that while he was in favour of a transplant, he was not a surgeon and could not make a surgeon operate. Mrs Paul claimed that Dr Sanfey was abrupt and certainly not compassionate. "She told me it cost £60,000 for a liver and, if they gave it to Michelle, they would be denying someone else.

"She said she believed Michelle was now medically unfit. When I asked her about the moral decision she said 'you are not listening to me, I said your daughter is now medically unfit, I am not giving her a transplant and that's final', then she walked out."

Mrs Paul's evidence was backed up by her family doctor, Dr John Wiseman, who told the inquiry at Aberdeen Sheriff Court that he had written to the hospital asking why she had been turned down but received no reply. A subsequent phone call from the transplant unit had informed him that there were concerns about post-transplant care because of the family history of drug abuse.

Dr Wiseman, a partner at the Woodside Medical Centre in Aberdeen, said he believed Michelle should have received a transplant. "In this case you have a fairly innocent 15-year-old girl who was denied the opportunity of transplant on the basis of her psycho-social background — not a fair way of coming to a decision."



Carolann Paul: says doctor was abrupt

Michelle suffered liver failure in November 1995, 13 days after taking drugs, including ecstacy, at a local rave. She died six days after being admitted to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary's transplant unit.

Mrs Paul visited Michelle five days after she was taken

Continued on page 2, col 5

Interest rate court win for investor

A small investor has won an victory in court against a building society for paying him uncompetitive rates of interest on his savings. The case could open the floodgates for millions of other investors ......Page 27

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IRA men escape trial over break-out

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

FIVE IRA terrorists and an armed robber will never be punished for breaking out of a top security jail after the collapse yesterday of their second trial.

Mr Justice Kay ended the trial of the men, who escaped from a special secure unit at Whitemoor jail near March in Cambridgeshire, because of a two-page feature article in the London *Evening Standard* on Wednesday.

Max Hastings, the editor, is to appear before the trial judge today to explain why he published material that prevented the men from having a fair trial.

An earlier trial had also been abandoned and the judge said that medical evidence suggested five of them had deteriorated mentally. Legal restrictions meant that the men's criminal histories should not have been mentioned by the media during the trial. Mr Justice Kay said at Woolwich Crown Court: "The interests of justice cannot be served by a third attempt at this trial. It would be almost three years after the event and medical evidence suggests five of the defendants have deteriorated.

"It is very unusual for such a serious and important case to be stayed. I remind myself the evidence against these defendants is very strong, indeed they are serving long prison sentences."

But he said the law for the defendants was the same as for everyone. "They are entitled to that, whatever they have done," he said.

The six defendants were: Paul Magee, 48, jailed for life for murdering an SAS captain and Glen Goodman, a special constable; Gilbert MacNamee, 36, serving 25 years for involvement in the IRA Hyde Park bombing; Peter Sherry, 31, serving life for conspiracy to cause explosions; Liam O'Duibhir, 34, serving life for conspiracy to cause explosions, and Liam McCotter, 33, serving 17 years for terrorist offences. Andrew Russell, a non IRA prisoner, was convicted of armed robbery and hijacking.

They had been held in Belmarsh prison near Woolwich, southeast London, awaiting trial for escaping from Whitemoor in 1994 and firearms offences.

They argued that the *Evening Standard* article about Belmarsh, headlined "Alcatraz on Thames — No Way Out", published on Wednesday, was prejudicial to a fair trial. It included pictures of Magee, O'Duibhir and Sherry and described them as "terrorists".

The men's first trial was abandoned after the first day when the records of the defendants were published. But Mr Justice Kay ruled that there must be a second one.

He said yesterday: "From the very outset of this case steps have been taken that the jury should not be told of the previous offences of the defendants or any IRA connotations.

"No mention was made of the offences or the IRA in the opening of the case and the defence have not raised these matters. The defendants are entitled to be tried without the jury learning of their previous convictions and it is likely one or more of the jury read last night's *Evening Standard*."

He said the safeguards introduced had been subverted at a crucial time and it was no longer possible for justice to done.

Man freed over 'tape confession'

A man who was secretly taped confessing to his wife that he had tried to poison her with strychnine walked free from the Old Bailey after a judge ruled the recording was inadmissible as evidence. Judge Michael Coombe ruled, after three days of legal argument, that the recording amounted to entrapment ......Page 3

Arts cash freeze

The Arts Council of England was criticised after announcing a grants budget which means that most organisations will see no increase in funding ......Page 8

Leading article, page 23

Market hits high

The stock market reached an all-time high yesterday, with the FTSE-100 reaching a peak of 4273.4, before closing at 4271.5 ......Page 27

Stock market, page 33

Pavarotti 'planning 3,000-pupil college on Eigg'

By Shirley English

THE sale of Eigg descended into confusion yesterday when it was claimed that Luciano Pavarotti was interested in setting up a European classical and operatic music college for 3,000 pupils on the tiny Hebridean isle.

Highland Council revealed that it had been approached by two men claiming to represent the Pavarotti Foundation who had plans to establish a European centre of excellence.

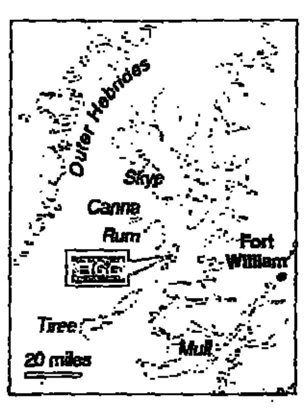
Dr Heinz Deiter Kals, a German consultant, said that he was acting for the Italian tenor and had the approval of Eigg's laird, Marlin Eckhard Maruma, a German holistic artist, to start talks with the council. The scheme was dubbed "absurd" by islanders and "unsuitable" by the council.

Pavarotti's possible involvement was not yesterday's only development. There were doubts as to whether Eigg — present population 63 — would even be for sale after it was claimed that one of two large loans entered into by Maruma to buy the island had been taken over by an unnamed body.

Yesterday Highland Council and Knight Frank, the Edinburgh estate agents, were trying to contact Maruma's representatives and the so-called Pavarotti Foundation. Colin Strang Steel, at Knight Frank, said: "As far as I am concerned the island is still up for sale. If Maruma has restructured his finances, however, it may be that there is not the same pressure to sell now."

Pavarotti's agents in New York were unable to shed any light on the situation.

The developments came a day after islanders were refused lottery funding to buy Eigg in partnership with Highland Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.



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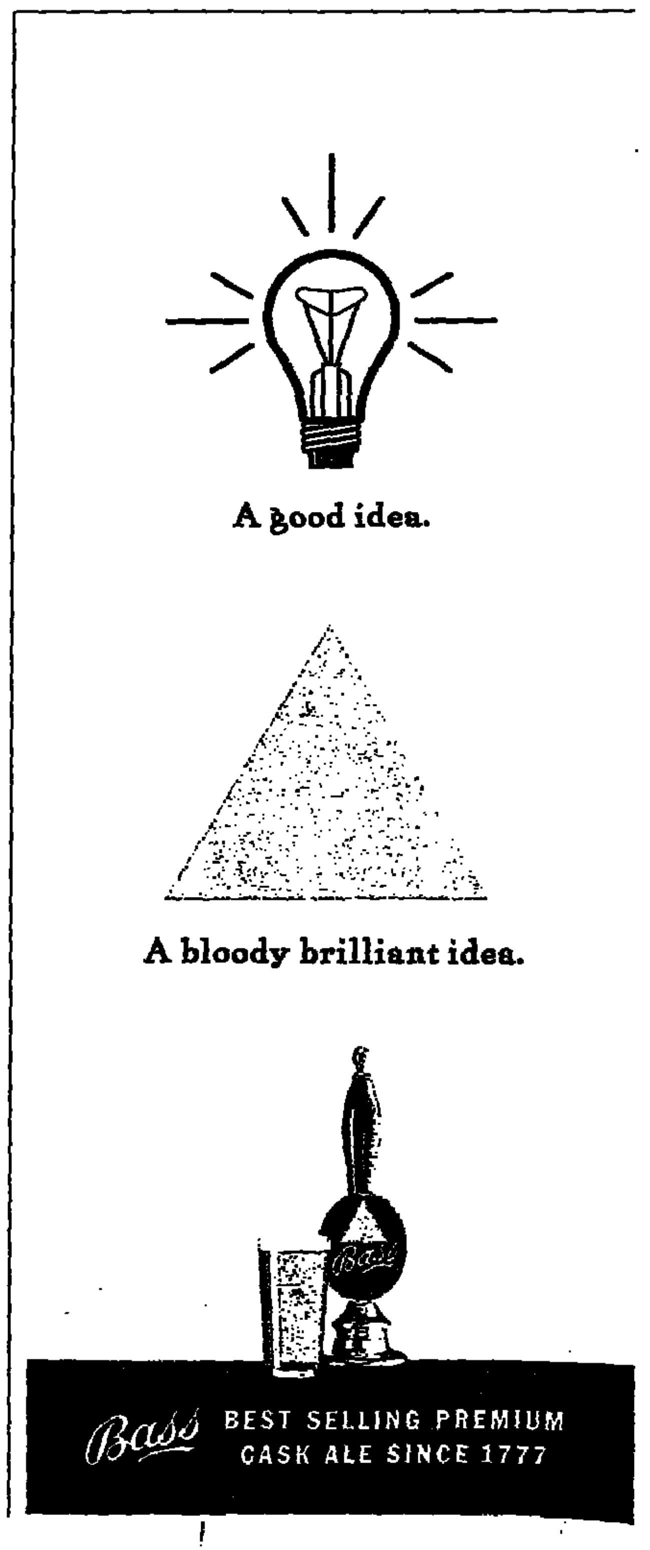
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An election fizz crackles through the air

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

People say that you can tell whether it is going to rain by watching the cows. "Ah, look at those cows lying down. *Rain must be imminent:* the cows are preparing a dry patch." But it might just show the cows *think* it is about to rain. They may be wrong. One *should not assume* that because cows are *in* nature, cows understand nature.

A similar mistake is made by non-political people observing MPs. "Ah, look at those MPs down there: they are behaving as though there was about to be a general election. *It must be imminent.*" They think that because MPs are *in* politics, MPs understand politics.

Not so. *Most MPs have no idea what is going on.* So to report that MPs at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday were behaving as though a general election were *imminent does not mean it is.* It means MPs *think* it is. They may be wrong.

Still, the mood was unmistakable. *From his tribe the PM got a loud* cheer for a lame joke. A very loud cheer for a very lame joke. For a combination of loudness of cheer with *lameness of joke.* Mr Major achieved an awesome mismatch. The joke is almost too dreadful to insult you with it: *the Opposition, said* Major, were in a such a muddle about how to react to events that all he could say was "give them *the facts* . . . and they'll draw their own *confusions.*" Boom-boom.

This was followed by a burst *of canned cheering from the* government benches. When he left the Chamber at the end of the session, it was to the *noisiest and most prolonged* cheer he has heard there this year.

Some of Mr Major's ripostes were quicker-witted. Agreeing with Bill Walker (C, Tayside N) about the joys of cadeting, he was heckled by a Labour backbencher: "Why *didn't you* join, then?" Major: "I was playing cricket at the time."

Harry Cohen (Lab, Leyton) is a Leftie of the "cheeky monkey" school (Head Teacher: Tony Banks; Capitalist Conspiracy Studies: Ken Livingstone) *rather than the* "Eeyore" school (Head Teacher: Tony Benn; World Citizenship Classes: Michael Meacher). *Mr Cohen has made one* concession to new Labour: he has shaved off his beard. His opinions remain hairy. Yesterday he attacked the notion of a Royal Yacht as a "silly state symbol". Why not spend the money on achieving "sensible class sizes"?

Again, Major was ready. Smaller classes were not necessarily better. In the 11 to 16 bracket, "class sizes in Islington are smaller than at the *London Oratory*". Major got another huge cheer.

In part this was for an effective reply; but beneath the happy Tory noises lay a huge relief. Its cause, arriving late, skulked behind the Speaker's Chair like a truant behind the bike sheds. Kenneth Clarke *had just hardened his stance* on the single currency.

In mirror image to Tory joy, was Labour discomfiture. Tony Blair's questions to Major were based on a strategy of prising open a gap between the PM and his Chancellor. *No gap was apparent, so* Blair's district attorney-style (*"Aha! Now, gentlemen, this doesn't* quite *tally with what Gino said to Giuseppe at Rudy's Bar on May 16"*) ran out of steam after his first question, leaving his second and third limping behind.

"Bye-bye!" shouted the more idiotic type of Tory, as though Blair were heading for certain defeat.

In 20 years, students will read the *Hansard* of this PM's *Questions and find it indistinguishable* from the undistinguished others. No typeface exists to indicate fizz. But the fizz was there. Maybe the cows are right.

Blair plan would encourage single mothers to work

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR will today announce plans to take single mothers off benefit and into *work as part of his aim to* transform the £90 billion welfare state if a Labour government is formed.

The Labour leader will use a speech in Amsterdam to propose that single mothers who have children aged 5 to 16 *should turn up at job centres* for a careers interview.

At present, single mothers do not have to make themselves *available for work until* their youngest child is 16. But Mr Blair will indicate that they should at least show they *are willing to work when their* children are much younger. While he will not go so far as to suggest benefit penalties for *single mothers, he will under*line the need for "rights to be matched with responsibilities".

Under the scheme, which is *similar to the JET scheme* operating in Australia, single mothers will also be given advice about childcare on offer *locally and the after-school* clubs which Labour is also planning to introduce.

Mr Blair will point out that *there are now one million* single mothers in Britain costing the state £10 billion. Many more married women are working but fewer lone mothers, he will say. In Britain 4 *out of 10 lone parents work, in* Sweden 7 out of 10, and in France 8 out of 10.

"They are trapped on bene*fit because there is a passive* welfare state, no national childcare strategy, an inflexible benefit system, lack of *education and skills," he will* say. "The people who bear the brunt are children. One in three children in poverty are *in-lone parent households.*"

Mr Blair will emphasise that the social security system ignores single mothers. "The *DSS just sends them cheques* and occasionally checks their addresses," he will say.

Social security officers send *mothers a giro cheque every* week and write to them every three weeks to check the information on their files is *correct, he will point out.* "The mothers tick a box, send the form back, and the cheques keep coming."

Senior Labour aides last night denied that the new scheme would be compulsory pointing out that 9 out of 10 *single mothers wanted to* work. They emphasised that there would be no move to force single mothers to work. "The Tory answer is to cut benefit. We will get them off *benefits and into work,"* Mr Blair will say.

The party would relax the 16-our rule for lone parents *under 25, hich means that out*-of-work lone mothers lose their benefit if they start full time study.

*Labour also plans to intro*duce a flexible and personalised benefits service by introducing "one-stop shops" *and a new jobs, education and* training scheme. Other measures aimed at getting lone mothers back to work include *tax relief for employers who* take on the long-term unemployed.

Mr Blair will also hint at *more sweeping reforms.* About £90 billion a year goes to 11 million people but one in three children rely on means-*tested benefits. "It is nonsense* to say that we will stick to their spending targets and also stick to their policies," he will say. *"The Right offer no strate*gy. They spend more, but more are suffering. The Left of centre must restrain the wel*fare state to cope with the* demanding changes of the society in which we live."

CHRIS HARRIS

Two policemen from the Firearms Branch leaving empty-handed yesterday after an armed raid on a squat in Stoke Newington, northeast London. Police had received a tip-off about drugs and weapons but nothing was found

Theft of birth certificates brings call for benefit fraud clampdown

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

PETER LILLEY, the Social *Security Secretary, was told by Tory MPs yesterday to clamp* down urgently on child benefit frauds after it emerged that thousands of blank birth cer*tificates had been stolen and* could be used for false claims.

The theft was seized on by the cross-party social security *select committee as a prime* example of the Government's failure to track down fraudulent claims within the £6.5 billion child benefit budget.

The committee told Mr Lilley that his department "has been asleep" in failing to take child benefit fraud seri*ously, and he was urged to* carry out random checking to cut losses estimated at up to £100 million a year.

Tory MPs' insisted that tighter controls must be introduced before next year when the private sector takes control of the benefit.

More than 12,500 birth certificates have been stolen since 1993. The missing certificates came to light only after MPs *pressed* Mr Lilley's *officials* for information. The report complains that "such serious information was not revealed *until the committee* took oral evidence from the Social Security Department".

Council tax victory for war veterans

War veterans have won a victory in a six-year campaign to stop councils taxing their war pensions. *Barnsley, Sheffield and Wakefield* were *among a handful of local authorities* that treated war pensions as income when calculating council tax bills. This week, after a meeting with the British Legion, they agreed not to include war pensions in the calculations. The veterans will fight on, however, to have the change introduced immediately rather than *phased in* over four years as the Labour-run councils *propose.* The councils want the Government to make up the shortfall.

Union inside GCHQ

Trade unionists are back inside the GCHQ spy centre at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, for the first time since union membership was banned there 13 years ago. Vosper Mantec, an engineering maintainance company that has taken over some contracted-out work, has agreed to recognise the GMB union for staff on the contract.

Three deny docks charges

Six ferry passengers *plunged 30ft to their deaths from* a dockside gangway at Ramsgate, the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday. Swedish companies FEAB and FKAB, designers and builders of the gangway, and Port *Ramsgate Ltd, operators, deny* charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Remarriages in church

Divorced people could soon be allowed to use the traditional wedding service in church if they remarry. Although they would *still* have to go through a register office or other civic wedding first, the Church of England is considering changing the rite to match the first-time wedding service, according to the *Church Times*.

Solicitors' bills rise

Negligence claims against solicitors over conveyancing work arising from the collapse in the property market total £557 million, the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund announced yesterday. Solicitors in England and Wales now face a rise in insurance premiums of 30 per cent a year for the next five years.

Hindley to mount appeal

Myra Hindley, the Moors Murderer, is to launch a court challenge against a government decision that *she spend the* rest of her life in jail. Her defence team will seek judicial review of the ruling that she join 24 other prisoners who have been told they will serve natural life. Hindley, 54, has not yet been informed officially of the ruling.

'Suicide pact' lesbian jailed

A lesbian who tried to murder the wife of a company director after she ended their affair has been jailed for 11 years. Heather Nicklinson, 36, stabbed Phillipa Orchard in the back then locked her in the bedroom of her home in Tadley, Hampshire. She told Winchester Crown Court that she and her lover had agreed a suicide pact.

Boat boy's body found

Police confirmed yesterday that the body of a boy found on the banks of the Severn was that of David Cyster, 10, who drowned when his *father's boat sank during a fishing trip* 11 days ago. David, of Sea Mills, Bristol, and his brother Paul, 18, were both swept away when the cabin cruiser went down off Portishead Harbour. Their father was saved.

Archers anniversary surprise

Surprising *developments are promised* by BBC Pebble Mill tonight for the 12,000th episode of Radio 4's *The Archers* — the world's longest-running soap opera. "We cannot comment on any particular story lines in advance," *a spokeswoman said, "but I think it is safe to say there will* be some unexpected elements."

Brittan calls on Major to sign up for EMU now

By Charles Bremner

BRITAIN should sign up immediately for European monetary union because it offers a wealth of benefits, not least by locking all govern*ments into sound Conserva*tive economics, Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, said *yesterday.*

"Why not sign on the dotted line today? I for one would be delighted if we did," he said. *In his latest foray into the pre*election maelstrom over Europe, the former Tory Cabinet *minister* ridiculed Eurosceptics for attacking a project that gave all the European Union the same economic *medicine that the Conserva*tives had successfully administered in Britain.

"Economic and monetary union is a radical but Conservative idea: it represents minimal government intervention. *It promotes free markets. It* locks future governments, both here and on the Continent, into sound Conservative *economics.*"

Sir Leon's impassioned speech in London last night was certain to prompt new charges *of interference from* some Conservative colleagues. *His argument of "locking in"* Conservative policies for the future clearly envisaged the possibility of a Labour victory at the election.

Sir Leon listed the array of benefits that he said would accrue from the project and *British* membership. EMU, due to be launched in January 1999, would ensure prosperous markets for British business in Europe; *it would cut* transaction costs by up to £3 billion a year, far more than Britain's net contribution to the EU budget.

It would give Britain a voice in a powerful new monetary and political bloc. "EMU *will* not automatically deliver a golden age of economic prosperity. But if we design and *implement* it *wisely, it offers* us the best chance we have had so far to break the bad *economic habits to which we* are addicted, to promote the economics of deregulation in the rest of Europe and give *Britain a more powerful inter*national voice."

Leading article and Letters, page 23

Girl 'denied liver'

Continued from page 1

to hospital. "When I was approaching the ward I heard a hysterical, fearful scream and I knew it was Michelle." Mrs Paul said.

"I was very alarmed because I felt something was seriously wrong. Michelle seemed unconscious, her face was swollen. She was screaming *and didn't respond to my* voice. I had to lift her eyelids but there was only a fixed stare."

Mrs Paul was told by staff that they believed Michelle had taken some drugs while in the hospital, and that she had confessed to taking ecstasy *before being admitted.*

Mrs Paul, from Aberdeen, admitted she herself was a drug user who had spent seven months away from the family home at a Church of Scotland *drug rehabilitation* centre while suffering from hepatitis C. She was regarded as a model patient.

The court heard that her elder daughter Marie, 19, *had* "dabbled in drugs" and that Michelle's step-father, John Paul, was in jail for drug-*related offences.* Escorted by guards from Perth Prison, he visited her three times as she lay dying, as did her natural father, Michael Milligan.

A spokeswoman for Edinburgh Royal Infirmary said last night the hospital did not want to comment ahead of its *doctors giving evidence but* a statement would be made at the end of the hearing.

The hearing continues.

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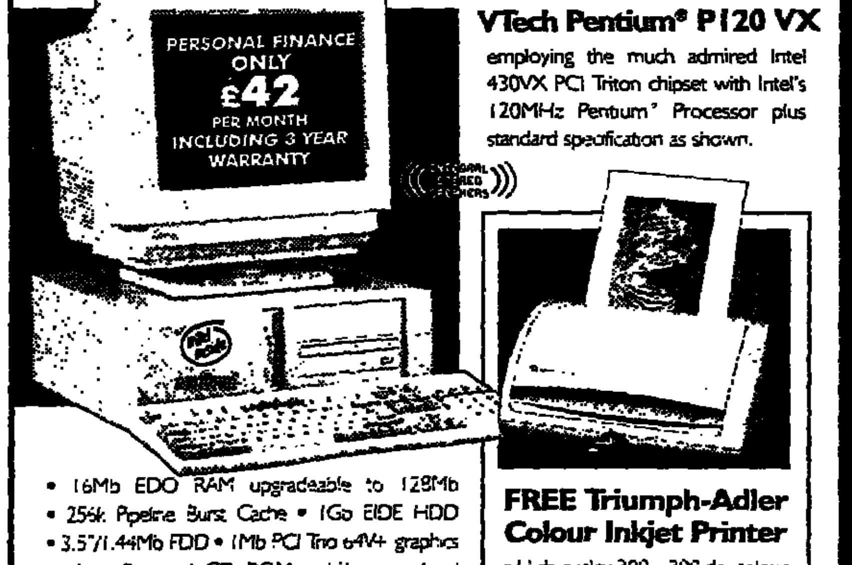

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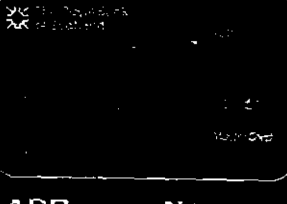

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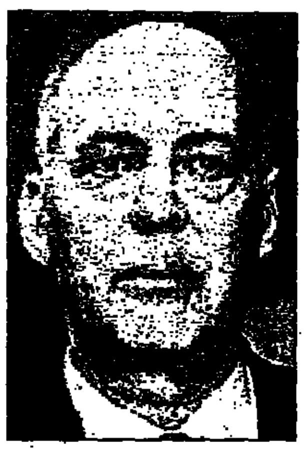
Husband goes free despite 'poison confession' to wife

By Richard Duce

Eftychia Copeland: she made secret recording



John Copeland: denied attempted murder

A MAN who was secretly taped confessing to his wife that he had tried to poison her with strychnine walked free from the Old Bailey yesterday after a judge ruled the recording was inadmissible as evidence.

John Copeland, 61, of Southgate, north London, was arrested after his Greek-born wife went to police with the recording. Police then investigated the deaths of three other women he had known: his first wife, a former landlady and a friend.

Judge Michael Coombe ruled, after three days of legal argument, that the recording amounted to entrapment. He said that it showed Mrs Copeland offering to stay with her husband on condition that he admitted trying to poison her. The judge decided that this amounted to trickery or inducement under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

The tape, made by Eftychia Copeland, 54, formed the principal part of the prosecution's case. It offered no evidence on the charge of attempted murder and two of administering poison after the judge's decision.

Mr Copeland declined to comment as he left court. His estranged wife was at home in Enfield, north London last night where a friend said she felt "let down" by the judicial system.

The court was told that Mrs Copeland had hidden the tape recorder in her car when she met her husband outside a Beefeater restaurant to talk about a reconciliation. She believed that bouts of illness had been bought on by her husband poisoning her meals: she had been taken to hospital after collapsing with stomach pains and vomiting, and suffered frequent diarrhoea and other stomach upsets.

Once Mr Copeland, a retired civil engineer who once worked for Camden council in London, was arrested in 1995, police reopened the files into the deaths of his first wife Patricia, as well as a former woman friend, Eunice Bradshaw, and a former landlady, Louise Young. The police, based at Enfield, worked in conjunction with the National Poisons Information centre, but no charges were brought.

Mr Copeland's first wife had died in 1969 at the age of 30. An inquest was told that she took an overdose of drink and drugs at the couple's home and the official cause of death was barbiturate poisoning. She was known to have been a heavy drinker.

His landlady, who was in her 60s, died in 1984 from an illness after she had taken Mr Copeland into her home as a lodger and they had become close friends. Two years later, Mr Copeland's former girlfriend died aged 62 from a suspected heart attack.

Mr Copeland met his second wife through a lonely hearts advertisement which he placed in a north London newspaper. They married at Enfield register office in July 1994.

Her daughter by a former marriage then married Mark Perrin, 37, who Mr Copeland was also alleged to have tried to poison, this time by placing weedkiller in his tea. Mr Perrin was rushed to Chase Farm Hospital, north London, where he was detained for eight days.

He suffered acute liver failure and doctors suspected he had hepatitis. The prosecution offered no evidence on the charge of administering poison to him.

Judge Coombe told the prosecution team: "You have obviously taken immense care in this difficult case from the beginning. I certainly agree with the view of the Crown and order that formal not guilty verdicts be entered."

Last night a friend of Mrs Copeland said: "She made the tape out of sheer desperation so someone could help her. This was crucial evidence and she put her life in jeopardy to get the confessions on tape."

It is not the first time that courts have refused to allow evidence when secret recordings have been made of suspects. The case against Colin Stagg, accused of the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, collapsed when a judge ruled that attempts by an undercover policewoman to encourage Stagg to confess had amounted to entrapment.

In another recent case, Keith Hall was cleared of the murder of his wife, Patricia. The jury was not allowed to hear a tape made by an undercover policewoman in which he is alleged to have confessed to the killing.

RAOUL DIXON

Margaret Orpen claimed that she made love with Mr Glover in his car up a quiet country lane in October 1995

Vicar cleared of sex charge after court told of accuser's delusions

By Paul Wilkinson

A VICAR accused of having sex in his car with a woman parishioner was cleared yesterday after a church court was told that she suffered delusions resulting from a psychiatric disorder.

The Rev Edward Glover, 39, married with two daughters, had denied committing adultery with Margaret Orpen on the front seat of his Volvo in a quiet lane in his parish of Trimdon, Co Durham.

Mrs Orpen, 39, a mother of three, had turned to the priest for counselling in 1995 after the death of her father. She had claimed that she had become pregnant as a result, but had later miscarried.

A Church of England consistory court sitting at Auckland Castle, the 14th-century country seat of the Bishop of Durham, was told that new evidence had been produced which questioned her state of mind. Other medical evidence would also show that she was not pregnant at the time and there were doubts of other evidence she had brought forward.

The Rev Rupert Bursell, QC, the diocesan chancellor and a circuit judge, who presided over the hearing, described the case as one of "enormous sadness" for both people. He said: "It is the psychiatrist's view that the allegations of adultery were prompted by her delusional state and have no basis in fact." He agreed to a request from the prosecution that the charge of conduct unbecoming a clerk in Holy orders should be withdrawn.

Glover: he denied committing adultery

Outside the hearing, Richard Langdon, Mr Glover's solicitor, read a statement in which the vicar said he was "very pleased" by the decision. He said: "He has been accused by Mrs Orpen of many things and his family has been harrassed with telephone calls at all hours of the day and night. Allegations have been made to the police, to the press and to anyone who would listen.

"It has been a difficult time for him, but he is deeply grateful to his true friends who have supported him, he looks forward to getting back to work and getting on with his life." He said that Mr Glover felt only sadness for Mrs Orpen. After the hearing the Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, the Bishop of Durham, said he would find a new post for the priest as soon as he was passed medically fit. Mr Glover resigned as priest-in-charge of St Albans and St Pauls at Trimdon a year ago, claiming stress-related problems. He and his wife Margaret had separated before the adultery allegation and still live apart.

Mr Langdon said there was no criticism of the way the case, which is estimated to have cost the church around £25,000, had been brought. Mrs Orpen's claims were first aired in *The Sun* in December 1995. Nicola Harding, the solicitor presenting the case against Mr Glover, read out a note that Mrs Orpen had passed to her that morning in which she said: "I do not withdraw my allegation of adultery, but I realise that there is not enough evidence to prove the case. I agree to the case being withdrawn."

Radio 1 to serve breakfast from the North

By Russell Jenkins

THE Radio 1 disc jockey Mark Radcliffe joked yesterday that it took half an hour to negotiate the removal of the station's showcase breakfast show up the M1 from London to Manchester.

Radcliffe, 38, from Bolton, told Matthew Bannister, Controller of Radio 1, that that was the price he would have to pay to persuade him and his partner, Marc Riley, known as The Boy Lard, to succeed Chris Evans. It was not money, he said, as he was wheeled out by BBC public relations officers at the Lass O'Gowrie public house around the corner from the BBC's northern headquarters.

Asked what set him apart from Evans, he said: "About £25 million, I would imagine." Then he added: "There is a kind of illusion that there is this big bag of money with 'breakfast show' written on it, left at the reception desk every Friday, and that they have Tippexed out Chris Evans's name and put ours on. I can assure you that is not the case. We are getting considerably less than Chris Evans, but we are happy with the money."

There are many more differences between Radcliffe and his predecessor. Radcliffe, the son of a journalist, has a grounding in classical music, specialised on his late-night Radio 1 show in promoting smaller indie bands and cultivates a caustic, but affectionate, wit. Unlike Evans, a Manchester United supporter, he follows the unfashionable Manchester City.

Breakfast time for millions of youngsters will be less of the rollercoaster ride it was under Evans. The new team, responsible for bringing the current No 1, *Whitetown*, to a wider audience, have some assurances that they will be able to play their own type of music.

Radcliffe played down his more sophisticated style by posing with Riley, pint of Manchester's finest in one hand and cigarette in the other, with a gritty northern city backdrop. He refused an outsize alarm clock proffered by one hopeful photographer.

Told to smile and look happier by the phalanx of cameramen, Radcliffe shot back: "We are miserable as sin. We don't want to do the breakfast show because it means getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning."

Evans, whose independent production company was reputed to earn £1.4 million for the contract, left after he was told that he could not work a four-day week. Radcliffe, who also presents Channel 4's music programme *The White Room*, takes over the show from February 17.

Store worker, 77, beats sell-by date

By Lerisse Smith

A WOMAN of 77 has struck a blow for older workers by beating 1,000 applicants to a job on a supermarket fish counter.

Doris Morse, a great-grandmother, lost her previous job as a nursing home assistant last year when her employers discovered her age. She was turned away by ten other companies when she sought a new job but is now the oldest employee of the Asda chain.

"I don't want to sit around twiddling my thumbs all day. I want to work and meet people," said Mrs Morse, from Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan. "I also love fish, I'm pretty fit for my age and I have plenty of experience as a fishmonger, so I suppose I fitted the bill." She began her working life as a fishmonger in 1938 with her late husband, George. Steve Maher, the store manager, said: "There was a lot of competition but Doris beat all the other candidates because of her personality and experience."

Mrs Morse, who has 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, added: "Many employers take the attitude that you shouldn't work after a certain age but they forget there are so many people out there with valuable experience and a lot to offer."

She will earn £53 for a 20-hour week at Asda's Cardiff Bay branch, which opens in March. She will lose virtually the same amount in housing benefit as a result, but prefers to work.

Sister of Whitaker's chief joins son's coup attempt

By Damian Whitworth

THE son and sister of the chairman of the Whitaker's publishing house were united last night in their insistence that he should stand down.

Sally Whitaker, group managing director of J. Whitaker & Sons Ltd, publisher of *Whitaker's Almanack* and *The Bookseller*, said it was time for her brother, David, to retire as chairman. She said that she would not be diverted from achieving this and made it clear that she had the support of her fellow directors, of whom David Whitaker's son, Martin, is one.

Yesterday *The Times* disclosed David Whitaker's claim that his son was behind a coup to oust him. Miss Whitaker responded that her brother was putting himself before the company. "David is pursuing his own interests at the expense of the company and all those who work for it. He is in a minority of one," she said.

Sally Whitaker: urged brother to stand down

In a statement Miss Whitaker added that she regretted that he had felt the need to talk about his grievances, although she understood "it must be very difficult to accept that it is time to step down from a role which one has held for many years".

Last night Miss Whitaker, 57, and her nephew, 38, put on a united front and posed for a photograph at the publishing house's offices in Bloomsbury, London. The board is understood to have met yesterday without David Whitaker.

David Whitaker had said that his sister was to step down for Martin to become managing director, and that another chairman was to take his place. He said that he would step down at some point, but not yet. "Putsches of this kind are ugly. I would wish to make my contempt widely known."

Driver fined for dozing in queue

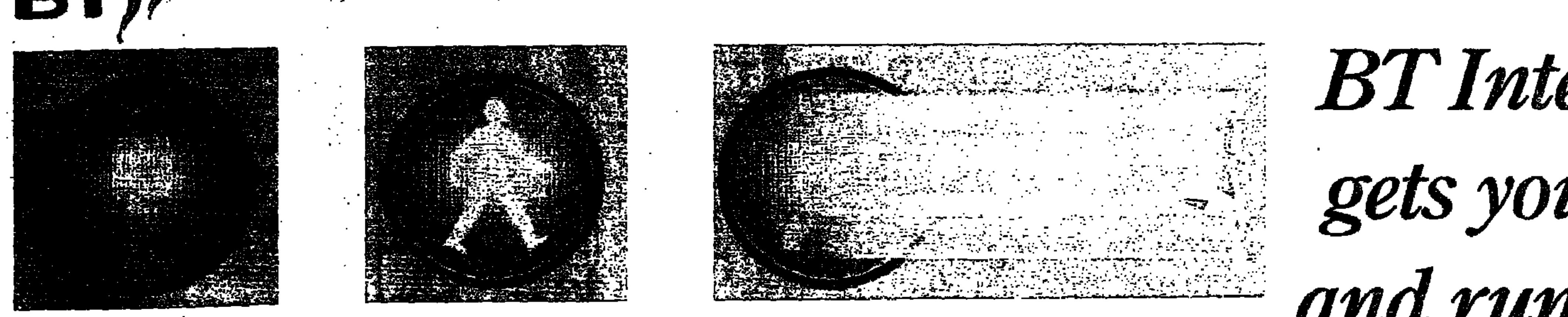
By A Staff Reporter

AN EXHAUSTED driver caused a traffic jam after he fell asleep in stationary traffic. As the cars in front drove off, Hugh Fingland remained slumped over the steering wheel, oblivious to angry motorists waiting behind him.

Eventually the mortified businessman was awoken by a policeman after a woman queueing behind his Audi called the police on her mobile telephone from the A10 at Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. Fingland, 53, admitted careless driving when he appeared before magistrates in Cambridge yesterday and was fined £160. Sentencing him and ordering him to pay £30 and have his licence endorsed with three penalty points, magistrates said the offence was "quite bizarre". He told the court that he had had a very busy week, with two sleepless overnight flights to South Africa and having to catch up with work.

He had had felt very drowsy as he sat in the queue. Fingland, from Sutton, Cambridgeshire, said: "Needless to say, I'm very embarrassed about the whole thing, never more so than when the police officer tapped me on the shoulder and I realised what had happened."

Cambridgeshire Police said it was fortunate that the car had been stationary. "Concentration levels fall as you become more tired and this is a real hazard when driving," a spokesman said, adding that motorists should take rests.



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5,000 immigrants entered illegally

Police smash gang which smuggled Turks into Britain

By Denis Newson and Daniel McGrory

A GANG that is believed to have smuggled more than 5,000 illegal immigrants into Britain has been uncovered by a joint police operation in Britain and The Netherlands.

The seven alleged ringleaders, arrested yesterday in Rotterdam, were said to have earned more than £20,000 a week. They smuggled mainly young Turks in an operation that is thought to have been running since 1985.

Detectives believe that the gang brought in ten immigrants a week. They wanted to come to Britain because they saw it as "an easy place to hide and where you can enjoy good living".

"The Turks are finding Britain is an ideal country in which to hide and enjoy EU living standards. This is because there are no identity cards and town halls don't keep population registers. It's easy for them to avoid detection," Joost de Bruin, spokesman for the Dutch military police, said.

The immigrants were hidden in false compartments on cargo ships sailing from Rotterdam to British ports. They were met and taken to safe houses across the country, where they were given advice about how to claim benefits and find jobs and accommodation, and how to avoid detection.

The breakthrough came earlier this week when detectives found two Turkish immigrants hidden in a false compartment on a ship which docked at Sheerness, Kent. They were arrested with a crew member who was part of the smuggling ring.

Dutch police then seized the ringleaders in Rotterdam, which police said became the smugglers' base in 1993 after French authorities came close to infiltrating them. The seven men arrested were all Turks. Drugs, false passports and thousands of pounds were seized as well.

Also arrested were 14 men waiting to be smuggled across the North Sea to a British port. "Each passenger paid £2,000 for the trip," Mr de Bruin said.

"It was a smoothly organised gang and we calculate that they were taking an average of ten people across every week. The immigrants were flown from Turkey or made the journey to Holland by car, where they hid in safe houses.

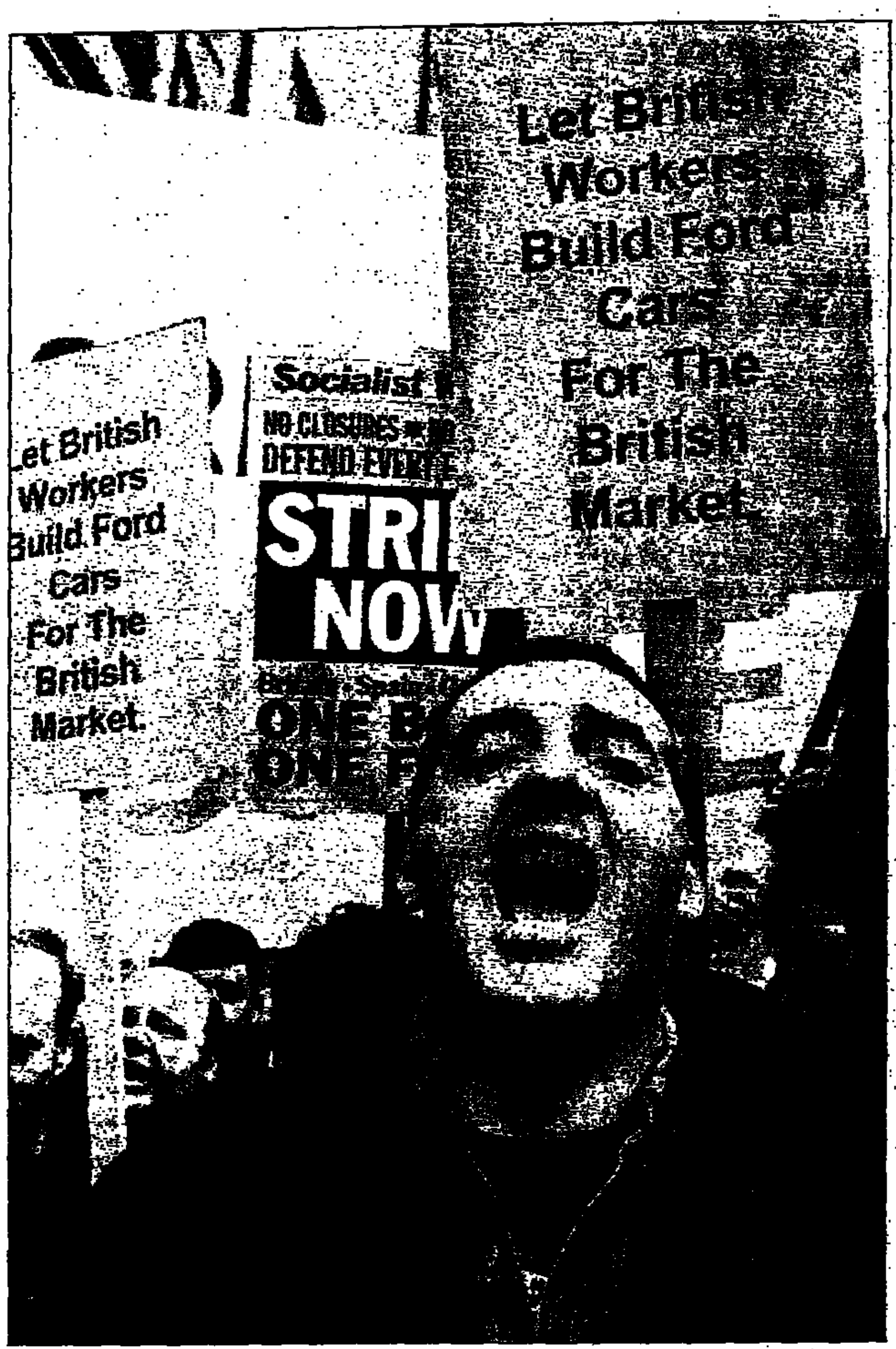
"Many illegally took jobs in Holland so that they could earn the money to pay for their clandestine passage. In Britain they were smuggled ashore and taken by car to join their families in towns all over the country."

The Home Office was reluctant to discuss whether Britain was regarded as a "soft touch" by illegal immigrants. "We believe we have effective safeguards and we have close and ongoing co-operation with the Dutch authorities on this and similar operations," a spokesman said.

Detective Inspector Tony Masters, an officer in Dover, said he was not surprised by the scale of the immigration racket. "In 1995 we found 650 illegal immigrants at Dover and Ramsgate and about 350 last year, so consider how many more ports there are and we obviously know many sneak through.

"We have close relations with our colleagues in The Netherlands on such operations and ongoing intelligence is closely pooled."

Last night police were questioning the crews of six Dutch freighters which were thought to have been involved in the smuggling. Officials said that more arrests could be expected.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Workers demonstrate against job losses outside Ford's London offices yesterday

Workers to vote on Ford strike

By Oliver August

FORD workers throughout the country are to be balloted on holding a strike after the company confirmed that 1,300 jobs are to be lost at Halewood on Merseyside, with Escort production concentrated in Germany and Spain.

The company told trade union leaders at talks in London that it planned to build a new, Escort-based vehicle at Halewood from 2000, when production of the Escort is to end. Union officials, supported by a demonstration outside by hundreds of Ford workers from Halewood and other plants, announced a strike ballot to try to save the jobs.

Tony Woodley, a national official of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that Ford employees at Halewood had increased productivity and did not deserve to lose their jobs. "There is genuine anger among Ford workers. They could not have done more to produce quality vehicles and they are as good as anyone in Europe."

Union officials said the decision had been taken only because of weak labour protection in Britain. A ballot is to be held as soon as possible, with the result expected within six weeks.

The company said it had agreed to the union's request to meet the chairman of Ford in Europe, Jac Nasser, probably in the next week.

Pennington, page 29

Mendham: growing role

Princess's private assistant leaves job

By Emma Wilkins

VICTORIA MENDHAM, private assistant to Diana, Princess of Wales, has left her post just weeks after the pair shared a holiday together in the Caribbean.

Miss Mendham, 27, who worked for the Princess for seven years, earned £24,000 as a secretary. She was one of the few employees who gave up calling the Princess "Ma'am" as their friendship grew. Although her original role in the Princess's office was minor — dealing with correspondence — it had expanded after the Princess's divorce last summer to include planning her diary and dealing with press inquiries.

Several other members of the Princess's staff have left in recent years.

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There's a great deal going on

Children should keep away from pets treated for fleas

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

CATS, dogs, and Gulf War soldiers are not the only ones at risk from insecticides and repellents, whether designed to kill fleas or mosquitos. Children, too, can suffer from dangerous side-effects if care is not taken in the use of pesticides.

Research from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas has confirmed the existence of Gulf War syndrome. Greater than normal exposure to insect repellents, flea collars and the anti-nerve gas pyridostigmine were common factors in patients with the syndrome. Risk of joint and muscle pain, muscle weakness and fatigue, and changes in sensation in the hands and feet, were proportional in the American forces to the amount of exposure to the government-issued insect repellent, which contains 75 per cent deet (N.N.diethyl m toluamide). Cognitive impairment — loss of intellect — was greatest in those soldiers who had worn anti-flea collars.

The faulty batches of the anti-flea preparation Droplix — which has recently caused the death of several British pets — contains diazinon, an organo-phospherous pesticide. Diazinon compounds can be absorbed through the skin and should be applied only by someone wearing rubber gloves. The pet should not be handled by any child for at least six hours after application. Ivor Deitsch, who owns the Wellington Veterinary Pharmacy in Knightsbridge, said that pets treated with fenthion, another popular organo phospherous insecticide, should be kept away from children for at least eight hours.

When deet has been too liberally applied to children, it can cause a dangerously slow heartbeat. Deet has also been known to damage children's brains, causing fits and a manic psychosis. Soldiers and travellers to countries where malaria is endemic will be relieved to know that there is a safe, and as yet equally effective, alternative. It is an extract of refined lemon eucalyptus oil and is marketed as Mosi-Guard Natural.

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Sun	23	Feb	At Sea	
Mon	24	Feb	Tartus, Syria	[illegible]
Tue	25	Feb	Larnaca, Cyprus	[illegible]
Wed	26	Feb	Ashdod, Israel	[illegible] Bethlehem
Thu	27	Feb	Port Said, Egypt	[illegible]
Fri	28	Feb	Transit Suez Canal	
Sat	1	Mar	Safaga, Egypt	Luxor, Karnak & [illegible]
Sun	2	Mar		[illegible]
Mon	3	Mar	Aqaba, Jordan	[illegible]
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French authorities suppressed the truth and allowed innocent farmer to be sacrificed, says author

Cold War scientist 'was killed by Soviet hit squad'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

Gaston Dominici made a confession to gendarmes after his arrest, but retracted it within hours

Sir Jack with his wife, Anne, and daughter, Elizabeth. Their bodies were were found by Gaston Dominici's son

SIR Jack Drummond, the scientist and civil servant murdered with his family in 1952 during a camping trip in the South of France, was the victim of a Soviet counter-espionage hit squad, according to a book published today.

William Reymond, a French journalist who has spent several years researching the case, claims Drummond was a British secret agent killed by assassins working for the Soviet Union and that Gaston Dominici, the French peasant found guilty of the crime, was innocent.

In *Dominici Non Coupable — Les Assassins Retrouvés* [Dominici Not Guilty — The Assassins Uncovered], Reymond says the truth was suppressed or ignored by French officials "who could not admit ... that a hit squad armed by the Soviets had been able to strike at foreigners in the very heart of France".

The bodies of Drummond, 61, his wife, Anne, 46, and their daughter, Elizabeth, 10, were found on August 5, 1952, near their tent outside Lurs, in Provence. Drummond and his wife had been shot and their daughter beaten to death with a rifle butt.

After an investigation lasting more than a year, police obtained a confession from Dominici, 76, the illiterate head of the large farming family that owned the land on which the family had been camping. Dominici retracted his confession within hours, but partly on the evidence of family members, who also later changed their minds, Dominici was condemned to death in 1954. Amid widespread concern the sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. Dominici was pardoned on Bastille Day 1960 by de Gaulle and died in 1965.

According to Reymond, far from being the victim of random violence, Drummond was a British agent who had been killed in the ferocious battle for scientific intelligence during the Cold War.

Dominici was allegedly sacrificed because the French authorities were not prepared to admit to the murder of an allied spy "under the noses of counter-espionage, the military and police". Drummond, an expert in nutrition, was recruited by British intelligence in 1914 and later worked on the top-secret chemical defence project at Porton Down. He was knighted during the Second World War.

Citing fresh American evidence, Reymond alleges that, during the postwar years, the nutritionist was active in Operation Paperclip, the Anglo-American attempt to recruit Nazi scientific expertise, and may have taken part in Project 63, aimed at protecting allied scientists and others with specialised knowledge from the Soviets.

"The Russians knew all about this and employed the same methods, with a certain predilection for kidnapping and assassination," Reymond writes. "In 1952, at least three scientists were victims of the Soviet riposte: a German, Erich Kramer, and two Britons, Dr Peck and ... Sir Jack Drummond."

Reymond writes that, four days after the murder of the Drummonds, German police arrested one William Bartkowski, a petty crook wanted for a number of thefts and other crimes. During an interrogation by German police in November, Bartkowski admitted taking part in the murders of both Kramer and Drummond and named as his accomplices Carlo Solte, a Greek, a Swiss identified as Moradis, and Roman Moesto, a Spaniard.

According to a written account of the interrogation, dated November 12, 1952, and obtained by Reymond, Bartkowski said he had been recruited in prison by a Russian who told him to contact the three men on his release. Solte, Moradis and Moesto "in addition to their criminal activities, worked for the Soviets", Reymond writes. The German authorities passed the information to France and on November 24, 1952, Charles Gillard, a senior French investigator, wrote a report declaring: "Bartkowski had everything to fear by admitting to the murder of the Drummonds. But he did not hesitate to do it. What interest could he have had in doing so, if not to reveal the truth?"

Bartkowski is believed to have made similar statements to British Special Investigation Branch officers.

Inspector Gillard later went back on his declaration because, as a "conscientious civil servant ... he had been instructed to do so", according to Reymond.

The Dominici clan has long campaigned to clear Gaston's name. Gustave Dominici, the patriarch's son who died last year, found the Drummonds' bodies. He first corroborated his father's confession, then retracted what he had said.

Years later Gustave claimed he and his father had made their statements because the gendarmes mistreated them. Alain Dominici, Gustave's grandson, has twice demanded that the case be reopened. The Foreign Office said the claims would have to be "properly considered" once the book was available.

One aspect of the Drummond case has defied explanation. Four years after Drummond's death, his former secretary, June Marshall, was murdered in Dieppe. No one has ever been charged.

Laundryman died in tumble drier

A SAFETY warning has been sent to laundries after a man was killed in a tumble drier.

Ray Washbrook, 26, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, died last November from multiple head injuries after entering a drier to free a piece of linen. The machine started up and he was trapped inside in temperatures up to 95F during its 20-minute cycle.

Warrender Aircraft Services in Stevenage, for whom Mr Washbrook was working, runs a fully automated washing and laundry service for airlines. The tumble drier had been in use for only three weeks. Laundry is placed on a conveyor belt and fed into three large driers.

An inquest is still to be held but the Health and Safety Executive has alerted other users of the same equipment.

A spokesman for the HSE said: "It is believed the operator was attempting to remove a piece of linen which had not been ejected from the rear of the drier at the end of a cycle.

"He entered the conveyor enclosure, taking with him the interlocking key to ensure safety, and climbed into the drier through the front-loading door, apparently believing himself to be safe. When he removed the piece of linen, however, it allowed the rear door to close and the machine began a new cycle which trapped him inside."

The HSE has told other users how to take steps to avoid similar accidents. "There are many continuous batch washing lines in use in laundries throughout the country and users are advised to review safety systems."

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Labour and anti-gun lobby condemn cadet force plan

By Alice Thomson
and David Charter

LABOUR rounded on government proposals to encourage schoolchildren to become military cadets yesterday, claiming that it could cost taxpayers more than £5 billion. They were joined by gun-control campaigners and teaching unions, who said they were horrified at plans to help 13 to 22-year-olds to join the cadets and learn how to use firearms. Teachers dismissed the scheme as a "pre-election gimmick".

Scottish teaching unions said that after Dunblane it was "extremely unlikely" that any school would start a cadet force. They urged John Major to promote less militarisitic training. The anti-firearms lobby was "incredulous" that ministers could even suggest teaching 13-year-olds to shoot in the wake of Dunblane.

But Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, suggested that an expansion of the cadet forces could keep disadvantaged children away from "the temptations of the modern world".

The Prime Minister told MPs: "I strongly encourage participation in cadet forces and hope to see an increase in the number of youngsters taking part."

Teachers' leaders warned against the plan. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Discipline, teamwork and leadership are all important qualities, but it is doubtful whether they can be instilled by press-ganging unwilling pupils."

Jill Marshall-Andrews, of the Gun Control Network, said that the Government appeared to recognise the danger of guns with its Firearms (Amendment) Bill, but was encouraging the next generation "to embrace guns".

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said the proposal was a direct response to Labour's millennium volunteer scheme for 100,000 young people to do work in the community.

Philip Howard, page 18

PAUL FIEVEZ

Boys from the Combined Cadet Force at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, practise drill yesterday

Hoping for a change in the weather, or a note from mother

Alan Hamilton (Combined Cadet Force, 1st Battalion The Royal Scots, 1957-58) recalls his days in uniform

ONE-TIME cadets compelled to square-bash the school playground every Monday afternoon and crawl at midnight through Perthshire bogs twice a year — unless they had a note from mother — find it hard to understand why anyone should want to do it voluntarily.

But they were serious days then, with conscription not quite abolished and the basic skills of warfare still on the curriculum for 14-year olds at many a grammar school. Pupils were thought to benefit from the life-enhancing skill of dismantling, cleaning and reassembling a Bren gun in the dark. Being shouted at by the masters who officered the platoon was no worse than being shouted at in class, except that it was done in the outdoors of a bitter winter. Being shouted at by classmates who had wormed their way up to corporal or even sergeant, and being forbidden to shout back, was an indignity against which the madly itching serge of Royal Scots junior battledress was no defence.

Many are eminent who have endured boy soldiering. Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, bore arms for three years at Downside. He said yesterday: "My school was a hooligan school, so we were not allowed to go to camp. I remember carrying an old Lee Enfield .303. It was almost as big as me. It didn't do a lot for me but it was better than playing rugger."

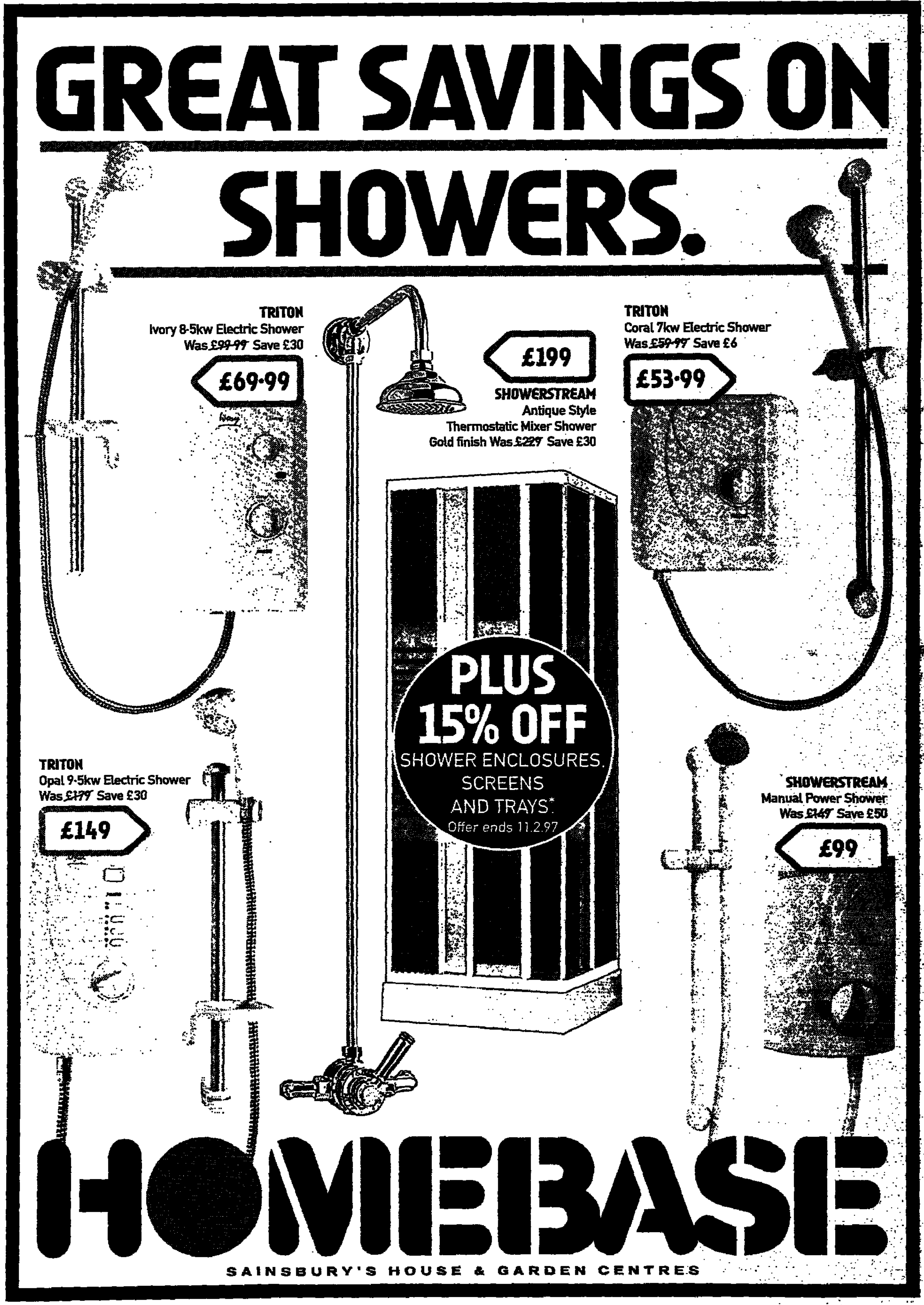
Professor Norman Stone, a prefect at Glasgow Academy, recalled being promoted to corporal in his CCF unit: "They thought it a disgrace that a prefect should be in the ranks." He found that the Blanco produced a skin allergy on his hands. John McCririck, the flamboyant Channel 4 racing commentator, enjoyed his time as a cadet at Harrow: "I was a brilliant field commander even though I was hopeless at everything else at school.

"I don't think the government scheme will achieve very much because it will not appeal to the problem children that it is meant to be targeting. As it is not compulsory, only those who are already team-spirited will join."

Denis Compton, the former England cricketer, believes his soldiering at Bell Lane School, Hendon, north London, in the 1930s gave him a sense of discipline. He drilled but cannot remember carrying guns: "It was designed to make you a good boy. I really do think it was a worthwhile experience."

Count Nikolai Tolstoy rose to the illustrious rank of sergeant in the CCF at Wellington: "I was a Bren gun instructor but I remember that most of the time it was rather boring. It's a male instinct to join the military, and good for discipline. But today the CCF will have to be a bit more imaginative than it was in my day."

Today's cadet forces are mostly voluntary and vie with a wide range of other activities, sporting and intellectual, for the attention of teenagers.



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How the sixth form seized an armoury and shut a school

A little-known mutiny shook a Hampshire school in 1957. Robin Young took part.

HOPES of any social benefits which might accrue from universal service in school cadet forces could well backfire. In the early summer of 1957, *Peter Symonds' School* in Winchester was scene of a mutiny centred on the combined cadet force's armoury. Pupils supplied themselves with Enfield .303 rifles, Bren guns, thunderflashes, and blank and live ammunition. All the classes were brought to a halt.

As the insurrection's appointed press officer, the present writer can perhaps now gain the national press coverage the schoolboys were unaccountably denied in the public prints of the time.

The school revolt followed the death of a well-respected headmaster Dr P. T. "Doc" Freeman in the autumn of 1956. The senior chemistry master was appointed acting headmaster in his place. Discipline rapidly *foundered.*

In May 1957 some of the school's senior boys realised that, with control of the armoury, with its store of guns and ammunition, they could bring the school to a halt.

The armoury was duly seized and the nearby RAF hut commandeered as headquarters, command post and social centre. The school staff's attention was so completely distracted that all the classrooms emptied, and 550 pupils took to the playing fields, or went out on to the streets of Winchester.

I was then 17. I spent a morning telephoning Fleet Street newspapers to alert them to the fact that children had taken charge of the school. Hacks from the *Daily Herald*, the *News Chronicle*, and the *Daily Mirror* duly arrived on the scene and were regaled with sensational interviews by excited third-formers and school prefects *holding* guns.

Photographs were taken but so far as I know *no* account appeared in even the *local* press. (One local newspaper was owned and edited by the wife of a member of the school staff.)

A party of sixth-formers, incensed by supposed slights suffered at the hands of the acting headmaster, besieged him in his upstairs chemistry laboratory, manhandled him, and finally dangled him out of the window in a dustbin.

Pupils also called the police to the school, alleging that staff were brutalising them, and took pains while officers were in attendance to draw attention to the lack of security that had allowed them to arm themselves with rifles and thunderflashes.

No shots were fired but school classes were cancelled for the day and many *pupils did not bother to* resume school until a new headmaster was appointed later in the year.

In an earlier incident, two boarders at the school had broken into the armoury and stolen an Enfield .303 *with which they plotted to* assassinate their housemaster. Their plot involved puncturing the tyres of his car so that he would pursue them on foot and could be ambushed and shot, preferably dead.

The housemaster, recounting this incident to Stuart Weir — later an editor of the *New Statesman* — while discussing his discovery that the school canteen had become a poker school where games were played for high stakes, advised: "Remember everything that happens here. *You could dine out on it for* years to come."

The school rebellion was followed by a *swift decline* in CCF numbers when it was discovered that membership of the cadet force could not, in fact, be made *compulsory as* had been supposed.

Suddenly the school became a centre for conscientious objection, with fifth and sixth formers filing applications to become "non-joiners".

Senior "*non-joiners*" were then put in charge of marshalling the school's youngest pupils on marching exercises, and spent their *time playing with platoons* of youngsters as if they were dodgem cars, deliberately shouting commands which would make them crash into each other.

Thereafter they competed to place their platoon first in the queue for the school lunch.

NOT all the *school's* cadet force history was a complete failure. One RAF cadet, "Monk" Truman, graduated to become an RAF fighter pilot, *but sadly* died young in a crash in the Bristol Channel.

Others went on to Sandhurst and Cranley, but held no more important a place in school memory than the leaders of the 1957 rebellion, or the two navy cadets who stole their force's inflatable Zodiac and were next heard of cruising canals in Burgundy.

Peter Symonds' is now a smooth-running academic machine. What could happen when it gets its cadet force back is *anybody's* guess.

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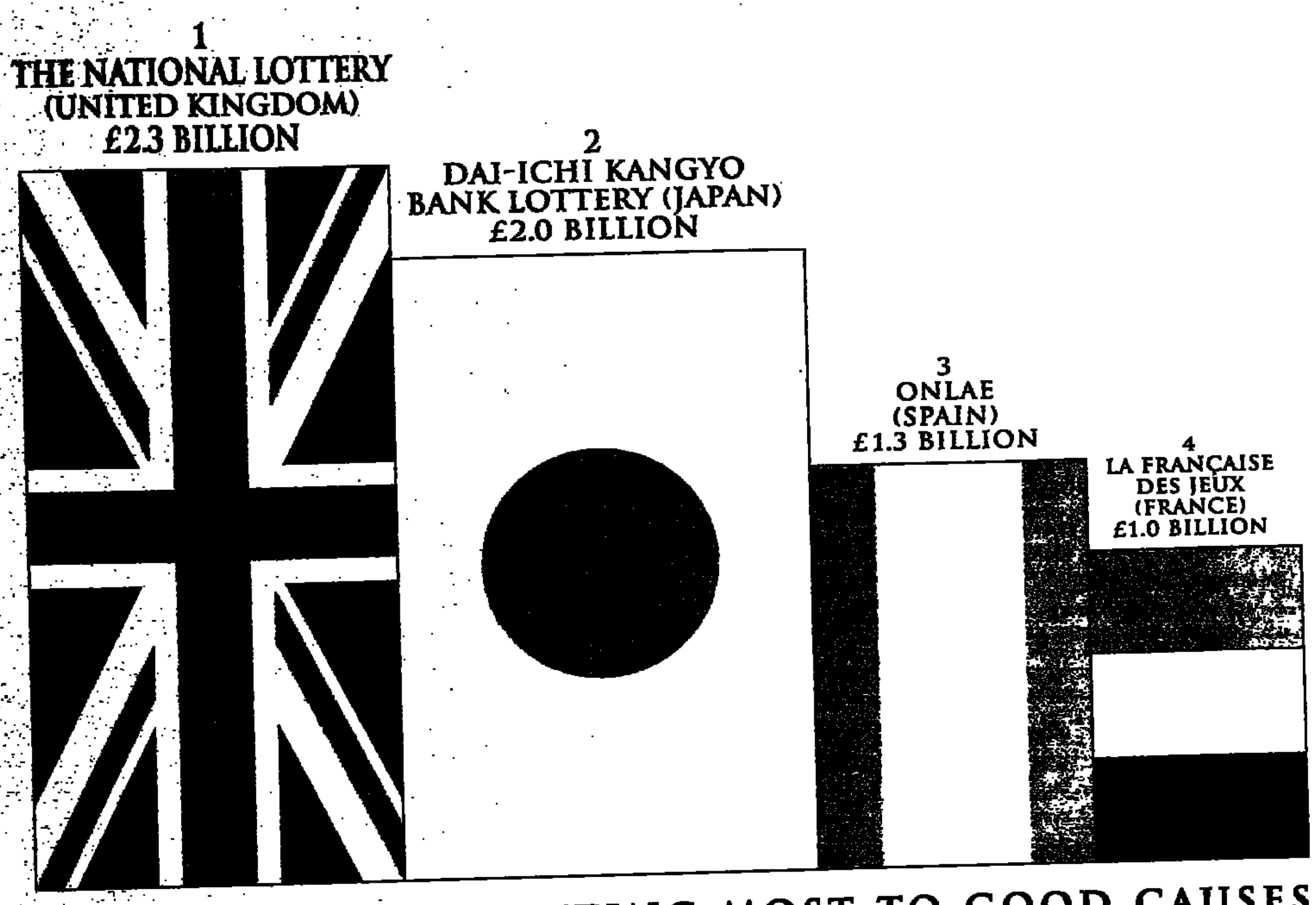

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Arts Council grants at standstill for fifth year running

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

THE Arts Council of England was criticised yesterday after announcing a grants budget of £186 million. Most organisations will see no increase in funding for the fifth year running — a 15 per cent cut in real terms.

The Earl of Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, said that it had to scrape the barrel to ensure that there was enough for all. "We have been able to pass on to most arts organisations the standstill grant we received. In addition we are providing one-off grants for a few organisations facing particular difficulties."

Ruth Mackenzie, executive director of the Nottingham Playhouse, said she was furious. Her theatre appeared to have been penalised for not having a deficit. "The Arts Council has given any extra money to organisations in financial crisis.

"We are tremendously successful. We have won prizes in Munich and Edinburgh and the Prudential Prize for the best theatre in the country; our audiences are at 70 per cent; we attract the highest sponsorship of any regional theatre."

She added that a standstill grant of £600,000 meant that it would be in financial crisis next year. "If you're a good manager, the message is 'you serve the theatre badly'. We can't earn any more money. The choice will be between losing jobs, losing shows or closing the theatre."

Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, whose grant was unchanged at £8.47 million, said: "Standstill for the RSC means that we have to get by with £¼ million less per year. That means fewer productions, fewer actors in those productions and no chance of in any way reducing prices."

The Arts Council also announced 15 projects selected for its £15 million stabilisation programme, a pilot scheme to enable groups to improve performances, facilities and plan ahead; it is funded by the National Lottery. The recipients were selected from 129 groups and range from the Birmingham Rep to the Nottingham-based Embroiderers' Guild.

The London Symphony Orchestra will receive some money even though it is financially secure. It will use the cash to boost attendances at its Barbican base in central London. Mary Allen, the Arts Council secretary-general, said: "The idea is to help each of the pilot projects develop their own strategy for strengthening their artistic operation and make it more financially secure."

Jennifer Edwards, director of the National Campaign of the Arts, said: "The Arts Council has done well. The problem is with what is being given."

The Donmar Warehouse received a one-off grant of £150,000, in recognition of the work of its artistic director, Sam Mendes.

Tara Arts, an Asian company, received a £50,000 boost to its annual grant, bringing the total to £224,700, and it was singled out for the stabilisation programme to increase its touring programme and establish a permanent base in Wandsworth, south London.

Welsh National Opera received £400,000 "to ensure that touring weeks in England are not reduced" and Opera North was awarded £200,000 "to maintain its level of activity and artistic standards and support its touring programme". D'Oyly Carte has received its first-ever Arts Council grant: £100,000 "to prevent the company from disbanding".

The Royal Opera House and English National Opera received standstill grants of £20.02 million and £11.95 million respectively.

Leading article, page 23
Arts, page 39

DOUG MARKE

Ruth Mackenzie, of Nottingham Playhouse, said the grants penalised success

Museums fail to give educational back-up

MOST of Britain's 2,500 museums and galleries fail to provide adequate education services (Dalya Alberge writes). Half make no provision and 15 per cent almost none.

The findings emerged yesterday in a study by David Anderson, head of education at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He discovered that most museum managers placed education "in the second order of priorities, after collections management and display". Museum staff reported that financial pressures were eroding services, and education was particularly vulnerable to staff reductions and closures.

"In the next century, personal learning outside formal education may be as important for national development as through schools and colleges," Mr Anderson said. He recommended that museums should employ a specialist educator and that the National Heritage Memorial Fund should use National Lottery money to support the development of museum education.

Saatchis seek recruits for Salvation Army

The Salvation Army launched its first advertising campaign yesterday in an attempt to recruit more young people. Four 60-second commercials created by Saatchi & Saatchi are to be shown in cinemas nationwide. The organisation, which was founded in 1865 by William Booth, right, relies on legacies for a quarter of its £80 million income in Britain and is concerned that few people are coming forward to bolster its ageing band of supporters. In the commercials, which were unscripted, Salvationists describe the causes and effects of alcoholism, drug abuse, homelessness and Aids. Each ends with the phrase: "Before we try to help, we try to understand." The advertisements, funded largely by the agency, took two years to research and produce.

☐ A Salvation Army charity shop in Edinburgh has taken an oil called Cannabis off its shelves after criticism from customers and the Scotland Against Drugs campaign.

Record RSI payout

A 42-year-old woman with repetitive strain injury (RSI) has been awarded damages of £186,000 by the High Court after having to give up her job as a machine operator. The sum is a record for RSI awards. Muriel Simpson sued Bowater Scott in Barrow-in-Furness for negligence and breach of health and safety laws. The company denied that her condition was caused by her job.

Clergy learn self-defence

Sixty clergymen are expected to attend self-defence lessons organised by Northamptonshire Police. The course was requested by the force's chaplain, the Rev David Evans, because of concern about the growing number of assaults on clergymen. It will be led by Inspector Peter Boatman, a martial arts expert, who holds similar courses for health and social workers and teachers.

Street preachers win

Eight street preachers were cleared of disorderly conduct by Bradford magistrates after being accused of shouting aggressively at passers-by in the city centre. The charges against the members of the fundamentalist Faith Ministry were dismissed. On Monday York magistrates adjourned a separate case against three members of the Leeds-based group who were accused of breaching the peace.

Girls to have pink Lego

Lego is about to add to its range of traditional building block sets with a version for girls in pink and yellow pastel shades. The toy, called Scala, features furniture and a family of dolls. It has been tested on consumers in France and Germany and will go on sale next year. A spokesman said: "The Lego construction system of the 90s is very different from that of 20 or even ten years ago."

Police kill missionary

An Irish missionary was shot dead by police in Kenya when they tried to rescue him from robbers. About 15 men broke into the home of Brother Larry Timmons, in Njoro, west Kenya, after killing a security man during a robbery on Tuesday. Brother Timmons, 48, a Franciscan, was hit in the stomach and shoulder when two policemen ignored his pleas not to shoot. *(AFP)*

Commando cleared

Colour Sergeant Mark French, 37, of the Royal Marine Commando, was cleared of the manslaughter of a reservist at Stafford Crown Court. Sergeant French was driving a Land Rover on the A53 during a night exercise when a van coming towards him pulled over to its left, hitting a group of camouflaged young soldiers. Kel Williamson, 22, of Halewood Village, Liverpool, died in hospital.

Wally Whyton dies

Wally Whyton, the children's television presenter and country music broadcaster, has died from lung cancer, aged 67. As compere of the *Five O'Clock Club* and *Musical Box* in the 1960s, Mr Whyton won thousands of young fans with the glove puppets Pussy Cat Willum and Ollie Beak. He was the compère of *Country Club* on Radio 2 for 21 years. Jim Moir, Controller of Radio 2, said: "His name is synonymous with country music and he will be remembered with enormous affection."

Ripper's brother set up

Michael Sutcliffe, brother of the Yorkshire Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe, was cleared of drug-dealing charges after the prosecution told a jury at Bradford Crown Court that he had been set up by journalists. Mr Sutcliffe, 46, of Bingley, west Yorkshire, had denied supplying Ecstasy and offering to supply the drug to an undercover reporter from the *News of the World*.

Firemen cut off false leg

Firemen cut off a woman's artificial leg after the release button jammed when she tried to take off the limb to clean her shoes. Irene Morton and her husband, Jeffrey, of Kimberworth, near Rotherham, had tried to ease the lock with washing-up liquid and a screwdriver. Firemen amputated the leg below the knee and fitted a spare. It was the second time they had freed Mrs Morton's £600 limb.

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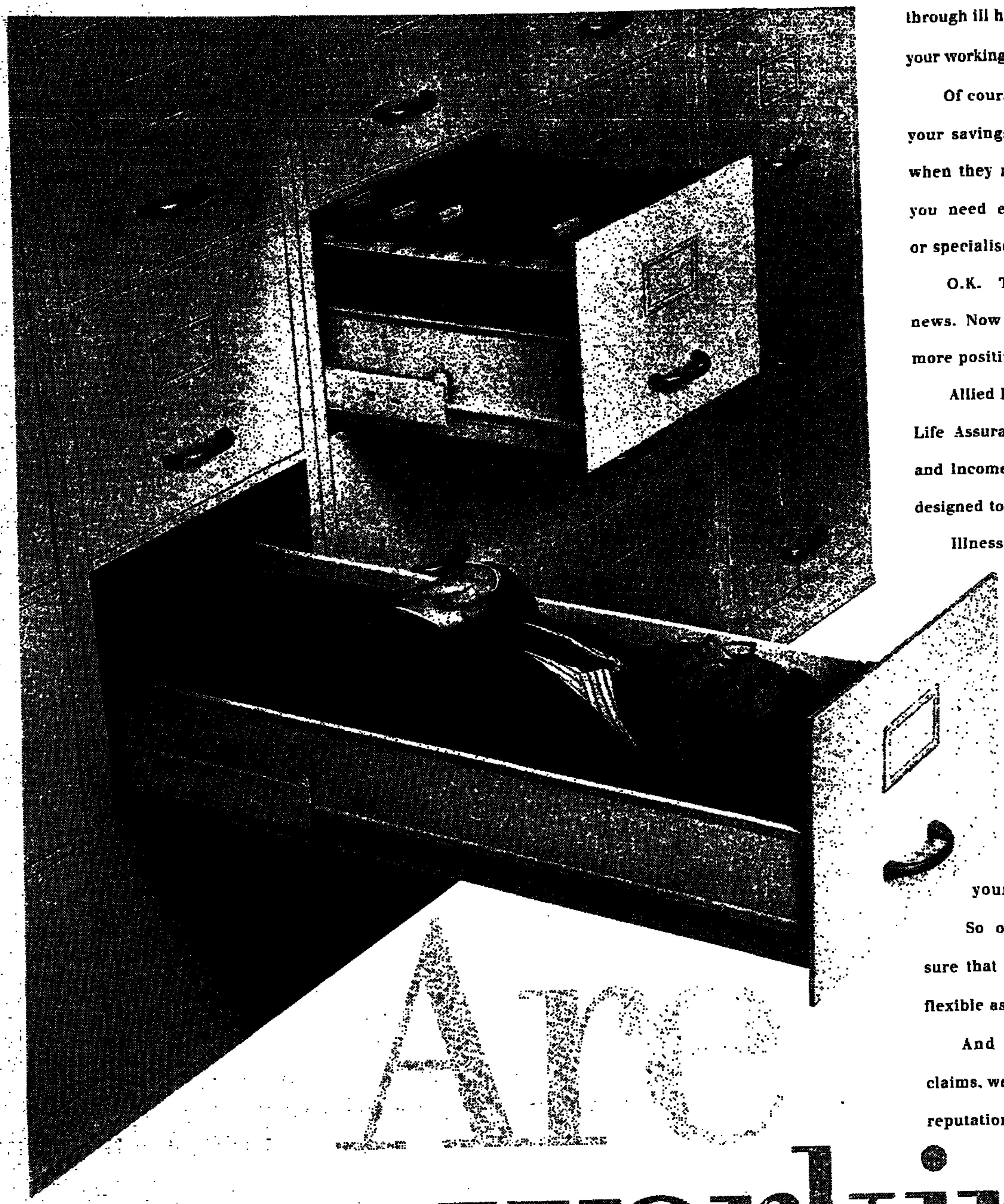

Are you working yourself to death?

First the bad news.

In the 1960s an American study into stress at work established that men under 45 who worked 48 hours a week, stood twice as much chance of dying from a heart attack as those who worked a slightly more civilised 40 hours.

Well, today people work far longer hours than that.

Here in Britain, we work longer than anywhere else in the EC. Regularly putting in fifty, sixty, even seventy hours a week.

And it's not as if our standard of living is anything to write home about, especially when you compare us to countries like France or Germany.

No wonder there are now more than 40,000 qualified stress counsellors in Britain.

In fact, over 90 million working days are lost every year as a direct result of stress!

And there's worse:

As well as being implicated in heart disease, stress is also linked with conditions like cancer, stroke and mental illness.

The irony is that the unhealthy hours so many of us work these days, mean we spend less and less time with the very people we're trying to provide a better life for. Our families.

So ask yourself this. What happens to your family if, God forbid, you suffer a serious illness and die?

Then again, what happens if you have a serious illness and don't die?

Supposing your health forces you to retire early or change your career (to something quieter and lower paid) or take an extended absence from work. How do you pay your bills?

It's no good saying that "it couldn't happen to me".

The chances of you having to take at least six months off through ill health at some time in your working life, are one in five.

Of course, you could rely on your savings. But what happens when they run out? And what if you need expensive equipment or specialised treatment?

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So imagine how much more relaxed you'll feel after a proper chat with us.

If you want to reduce the effects of stress, by all means take more exercise, take more time off, take your other half out more and take your career a little less seriously.

But whatever you take, make sure you take our phone number.

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Police win power to ban peaceful protests on roads

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PEACEFUL protests on public highways can be banned by the police, the High Court ruled yesterday in a test case of new public order legislation. The ruling gives Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, crucial legal backing for the new criminal offence of "trespassory assembly", which is aimed at curbing protests on public roads.

Margaret Jones, a university lecturer, and Richard Lloyd, a student, were the first people charged with the new offence after they were arrested during a peaceful demonstration at Stonehenge. They took part in the demonstration even though an order was in force banning assemblies of 20 people or more.

They were found guilty at Salisbury Magistrates' Court and Dr Jones was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs. Mr Lloyd was ordered to pay £300 in fines and costs. The convictions were overturned on appeal to Salisbury Crown Court, where it was ruled that there was no case to answer.

Lord Justice McCowan, sitting with Mr Justice Collins, ruled that the Crown Court had got the law wrong and ordered a rehearing. Lord Justice McCowan said the Crown Court appeared to accept "that any assembly on the highway is lawful as long as it is peaceful and non-obstructive of the highway; in my judgment, however, that is mistaken".

He said it left out of account the fact that an order had been made to prohibit the holding of a demonstration for the right of access to Stonehenge within a four-mile radius between May 29 and June 1.

A demonstration had taken place on the grass verge of the A344, beside the perimeter fence. Lord Justice McCowan said: "The prosecution need prove no more than that the assembly consisted of 20 or more persons and that the particular person accused was taking part in that assembly, knowing it to be prohibited by an order under section 14A of the 1986 Public Order Act."

Mr Justice Collins agreed, adding: "The holding of a meeting, a demonstration or a vigil on the highway, however peaceable, has nothing to do with the right of passage. Such activities may, if they do not cause an obstruction, be tolerated but there is no legal right to pursue them."

Dr Jones, a lecturer at Bristol University, said the ruling was bad for democracy. "The judgment denies any right to assemble freely in a public place if the police seek and obtain a banning order from a local authority under the new Act on the grounds that there is danger of disruption to the life of the community. Peaceful protest, protests of all kinds, whether to prevent the closing of a hospital wing or in a trade union context, are all affected."

Although the court said the case should go back to the Crown Court for a rehearing before a differently constituted bench, the CPS will be considering whether to continue with the prosecution, now that it has established the legality of the new police powers to curb public demonstrations, even when peaceful and posing no threat to public order.

John Wadham, director of the civil rights pressure group Liberty, said: "A peaceful, non-obstructive gathering is a reasonable use of a public highway. To say that it is a form of trespass seems extraordinary. It must be one of the more bizarre consequences of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act."

The Crown Prosecution Service said: "We took the case to court to clarify the law and they have ruled the police were right to take action and we were right to prosecute."

Margaret Jones and Richard Lloyd were arrested during a peaceful demonstration at Stonehenge

Challengers to a men-only tradition over a 16th-century battle: Ashley Simpson, left, and Mandy Graham

Equality advances at a slow trot after peace talks on Hawick ride

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE women of Hawick appear to be on the verge of claiming a small victory for sexual equality and ending an eight-month feud that has divided the Scottish Borders town.

Three hours of secret talks between traditionalists and reformers are believed to have broken a long feud over the town's annual riding cavalcade. A compromise would allow women to take part in three of the 16 rides that dominate town life during May and early June. The rides commemorate the 1514 Battle of Hornshole, when a group of local boys ambushed the English and bore their pennant back to town.

The rides offered do not include any of the seven official ceremonial ones, and the compromise is still to be ratified by the traditionalist, all-male, Common Riding Committee. Neither side was prepared to comment.

Of the 13 Border towns that have Common Riding, Hawick is the only one that continues to exclude women. The current dispute began last June when Mandy Graham, 21, and Ashley Simpson, 23, attempted to join 300 horsemen at the ceremony.

Ugly scenes ensued, which resulted in John Rudkin, a Hawick Provost, being fined £500 for breach of the peace. Jedburgh Sheriff Court heard that he spat at the women who attempted to join the men and called them "slags".

The Common Riding Committee organised a referendum on whether to lift the ban on women. It was boycotted by the Lady Riders Association as one-sided, and as a result just 23 per cent of the 12,000 populace voted. They favoured the status quo.

A ban on women at the event has not been lifted since 1932. The issue has disrupted the town to the extent that people have felt intimidated on both sides.

The secret talks — the first between the polarised men and women — were held under a threat from Scottish Borders Council to withdraw public funding of £20,000 for the Common Riding unless a compromise were reached. The Lady Riders Association had asked to take part in one official and two unofficial rides.

Yesterday they discreetly refused to indulge in any triumphalism, and instead stuck to the party line, claiming that no deal had yet been completed. A joint statement issued by representatives of the Common Riding Committee, the association and Hawick Provost Council said: "Valuable progress has been made and a further endorsing statement will be forthcoming in the very near future."

More details are expected to emerge officially next week after the new Hawick Cornet — the man who ceremonially invites the horsemen to ride — has been announced at the town's Burns Supper tomorrow.

Whatever the outcome, members of the Common Riding Committee face accusations of sex discrimination in court next month. The women are suing them with the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Fruit gets smaller to tempt children

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SUPERMARKETS are promoting the sale of bite-sized baby fruits as part of a drive to persuade children to eat healthier food. Baby bananas have been on sale in Marks & Spencer, Safeway and Waitrose for some time. Now Tesco has introduced baby apples and baby oranges. "We are making food more interesting for children to eat," said Peter Durose, the Tesco produce buyer.

Promotions include:

Asda: chicken breast fillets £5.99 for six (879g), pork joints and steaks £3.99 kg, parsnips 89p for 1.25kg, red/green seedless grapes 99p a lb.

Budgens: whole chicken £3.09 for 1.5kg, Lincolnshire pork sausages 99p for 454g, pork chops £4.39kg.

Co-op (CWS): part-boned chicken breasts £2.99 for 600g, Mr Lazenby's Butchers Choice sausages £1.79 for 454g, frozen garden peas £1.49 for 1.81kg.

Dewhurst: New Zealand lamb legs £12.49 for two, shoulders £6.49 for two.

Harrods: Parma ham £3.79 for 100g, smoked lamb £2.49 for 100g, Vienna sausages 99p for 100g.

Iceland: chicken fingers £1.79 for 20, boneless pork shoulder £3.28 a kg, low-fat breaded cod fillets £1.99 for 575g, coley fillets £1.99 for 680g.

[illegible]

Kwik Save: Linda McCartney sausages 78p for eight, Quaker Oats 75p for 750g, Typhoo tea bags £1.95 for 160, Hartleys damson jam 59p for 340g.

Marks & Spencer: lite pork fillet in mustard sauce £3.49 for 390g, lite wholemeal bread 52p for 400g, low-fat carrot and coriander soup 99p for 450g.

Morrisons: beef silverside £1.99 a lb, boneless pork shoulder £1.19 a lb, pork steak £1.59 a lb, cod fillet £1.79 lb, large oranges 69p for five.

Safeway: boneless leg of pork £3.49 kg, salmon en croute £1.99 for 400g, carrots 17p a lb, cherry tomatoes 99p a lb, Rocha pears 39p lb, white seedless grapes 99p a lb.

Sainsburys: haggis 99p for 454g, pork sausages 99p for 454g, fillet steak £13.88 a kg, white potatoes 89p for 5kg, white seedless grapes 99p a lb, conference pears 69p a kg.

Somerfield: beef topside/silverside/top rump with added basting fat £5.02 a kg, mangetout £1.09 for 200g, red potatoes 79p for 2.5kg, mixed peppers 79p for three, celery 69p a head, Royal Gala apples 44p a lb, loose plums £1.19 a lb.

Tesco: beef brisket £3.79 a kg, lamb half-leg £5.89 a kg, pork loin steaks £4.39 a kg, onions 18p a lb, white potatoes 49p for 2.5kg, closed cup mushrooms 99p a lb, apricots 79p a lb.

Waitrose: free-range chickens £2.99 kg, farmhouse duckling £2.79 a kg, diced pork £1.99 for 312g, Desirée potatoes 79p for 2.5kg, apricots 99p a lb.

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Lecturers' union votes for industrial action

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LECTURERS at "old" universities have voted to disrupt admissions and examinations this term despite an increased pay offer from vice-chancellors.

Open days for prospective students, as well as tests towards final examinations, could fall foul of industrial action by the Association of University Teachers.

However, the seven other university unions, including lecturers at former polytechnics, are likely to accept the latest pay offer. The Universities and Colleges Employers Association has almost doubled its original offer to 2.9 per cent. The 1.5 per cent offer led to a one-day university strike in November.

AUT members backed further industrial action by three to one, it was announced at the union's annual council meeting yesterday. The union wants vice-chancellors to support its case for an independent pay review body, in line with teachers, as part of the pay settlement.

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Cold sores linked with greater risk of Alzheimer's

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

COLD SORES, the common but painful affliction of the face and lips, may be a cause of Alzheimer's disease, scientists believe. The discovery that some people with traces of the cold sore virus in their brains are at much greater risk of the dementing illness could point to a way of preventing it.

Studies at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology have shown that the herpes simplex virus, which lurks in the skin, migrates into the brain where it may cause damage later in life. Whether it does so appears to depend on the presence in the brain of a protein known as Apoe e-4, found in up to 30 per cent of the population. Analysing samples of brain tissue, scientists in the molecular neurobiology laboratory found that those with both the virus and the protein in their brains were almost 17 times more likely to have suffered from Alzheimer's.

Those who had just the virus or just the protein present in their brains were not at increased risk.

Professor Ruth Itzhaki, who led the study published in the *Lancet*, said: "The finding is alarming in a way, but does offer the possibility of preventing or slowing down the disease. If one could nip the infection in the bud, one could limit the damage."

Almost everyone is infected with the herpes simplex virus, which is transmitted by kissing, in infancy. Usually it causes a sore and then works its way into the nerves of the face, where it remains dormant. However, in 20 per cent to 40 per cent of the population it can reactivate, causing repeated skin eruptions.

Professor Itzhaki said: "Over the course of your life the virus migrates to the brain as the immune system declines. Most people have it in their brains, but for most it doesn't do any harm."

The Manchester researchers believe that once the herpes virus reaches the brain it may reactivate intermittently. The kind of protein present may determine how much damage is done during these periods of reactivation or how well the brain recovers.

The virus had previously been suggested as a risk factor for Alzheimer's because it can cause a very rare brain infection, herpes encephalitis, but until now its presence in the brain could not be detected.

The link between Apoe e-4 and Alzheimer's was established two years ago, but scientists knew that other factors must be involved. Professor Itzhaki said: "Neither the virus nor the protein is a risk factor on its own. But when you have a combination of the two there is a very strong correlation."

If the findings are confirmed, treatment with agents limiting the activity of the cold sore virus could slow the onset of Alzheimer's, Professor Itzhaki said. People carrying the Apoe e-4 protein could be identified by a blood test. "There is the possibility in the future of immunisation against the virus."

An attempt to eradicate HIV by using a combination of drugs early in the infection may be working. After a year of treatment, no trace of the virus could be found in the blood or semen of 20 HIV-positive men. But traces in the lymph glands meant it was too soon to stop the drugs. The results were reported by Dr David Ho, of the Aaron Diamond Aids Research Centre in New York, who is treating the men with AZT, 3TC and one of the new drugs known as protease inhibitors.

Blood clots cure cancer in mice

CANCERS in mice have been cured in a process that aims to starve tumours of blood, (writes Nigel Hawkes). Using a substance to coagulate the blood in the tumour, but not in the rest of the body, an American team has managed to destroy tumours completely in more than a third of the mice tested.

The blood flowing through the tumours clotted within half an hour of the treatment, blocking them completely. Deprived of blood, the tumours began to die, just as heart muscle does in a heart attack.

Within 24 hours, the team reports in *Science*, the tumours had begun to break up, and within 72 hours they had collapsed. The treatment appears to have no side-effects: the mice lost no weight and remained fit and active.

The clotting agent is attached to an antibody which seeks out a protein on the surface of the cells lining the walls of the blood vessels feeding the tumour. Such proteins are believed to exist in human tumours, suggesting that the method may one day be useful in cancer therapy.

Dr Philip Thorpe, of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre, said the process was less toxic than conventional cancer drugs, yet provided "highly effective therapy".

There are several possible advantages for the treatment. Getting drugs to tumours is difficult, because they are not directly accessible to the blood vessels which carry the drugs. The treatment avoids the problem, because it attacks the cancer cells indirectly. And because the cells on the blood vessel lining are normal cells, they may be less likely to acquire mutations that make them resistant to the treatment. The hope is that the method could be used eventually to treat lung, breast, prostate, pancreatic and brain tumours.

NASA

Gas clouds in the Lagoon Nebula, captured by the Hubble space telescope

Astronomers see birth of star, 5,000 light-years away

BY NIGEL HAWKES

ASTRONOMERS have discovered stars being born 5,000 light-years away, at the centre of the Lagoon Nebula. A British telescope in Hawaii has shown a region full of intense radiation being emitted by carbon monoxide gas, as stars are formed from clouds of dust and hot gas.

The Hubble space telescope has shown gas swirling around the region to form shapes like tornadoes. These "twisters" are caused by large temperature differences between the hot surface and cold interior of the gas clouds, which produce strong shear forces that draw the gas into funnels.

Professor Glenn White, of Queen Mary and Westfield College in east London, working with Nick Tothill, also of Queen Mary and Westfield, and colleagues from Canada, Sweden and Germany, found the strong carbon monoxide emission using the James Clerk Maxwell telescope in Hawaii. The team pinpointed an intense bright spot which they believe is the site where star formation is taking place. This occurs inside a dense cloud of gas which is more than 30 times the mass of the Sun, and about one light-year across.

Carbon monoxide was first discovered in space 27 years ago and it can be detected by observatories across the world. But the observation of the bright carbon monoxide emission was a surprise for the research team.

"Stars are created from clouds of hydrogen, the most plentiful material in the universe," Professor White said. "The trouble is that it's invisible. We can only see it by watching its effect on other materials — in this case, carbon monoxide.

"Here we are seeing the carbon monoxide molecules emitting radiation as a newly formed star radiates energy, illuminating the cloud around it. We know it is a new star because, if it had been there a long time, the radiation would have blown away the cloud and we wouldn't see it," he said.

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Civil Service chief steered yacht plan through Cabinet

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

WHEN Michael Heseltine chaired the Wednesday morning meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on presentation, he was the guardian of a state secret.

As officials and party aides ran through the day's agenda, the subject of *Britannia* and the likelihood of a government statement on the decision to replace her was not even mentioned. Yet on Tuesday evening a hastily called meeting at 10 Downing Street for senior Ministers had taken the decision to commission a new royal yacht.

The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister and only a few senior ministers were invited: Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary. On Monday they had each been circulated with a ten-page paper written by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, setting out his view on the best option for a new royal yacht.

The country's most senior civil servant set out the tradition of the royal yacht, and how it had served the monarchy and the nation. He believed that it was a national symbol for Britain overseas and that at home it was largely a cherished institution. If ministers chose to replace her, he set out how a new yacht could be adapted to the needs of a modern monarchy and for the Government's commercial objectives overseas.

But he was insistent that only a publicly funded yacht was appropriate as it touched the monarch's dignity so closely. Advice to ministers is confidential but a government source said yesterday that much of Sir Robin's views formed Mr Portillo's text in his announcement to MPs.

It was clearly powerful reading and had considerable impact on the Mr Clarke. Senior ministers had until then regarded him as a stumbling block to a replacement. But Mr Clarke's antipathy was more to do with timing and priorities than hostility to the project. At a time of the Budget and the public spending round he could not have agreed to such a project or expected his fellow ministers to welcome it.

The Chancellor met Mr Portillo on Monday to work out a deal on funding. Mr Portillo was delighted by Mr Clarke's conversion. There would be a feasibility study, the running costs would be half those of *Britannia*, and payment would be made over some years. The aim would be for the new royal yacht to be ready to celebrate the Queen's golden jubilee in 2002.

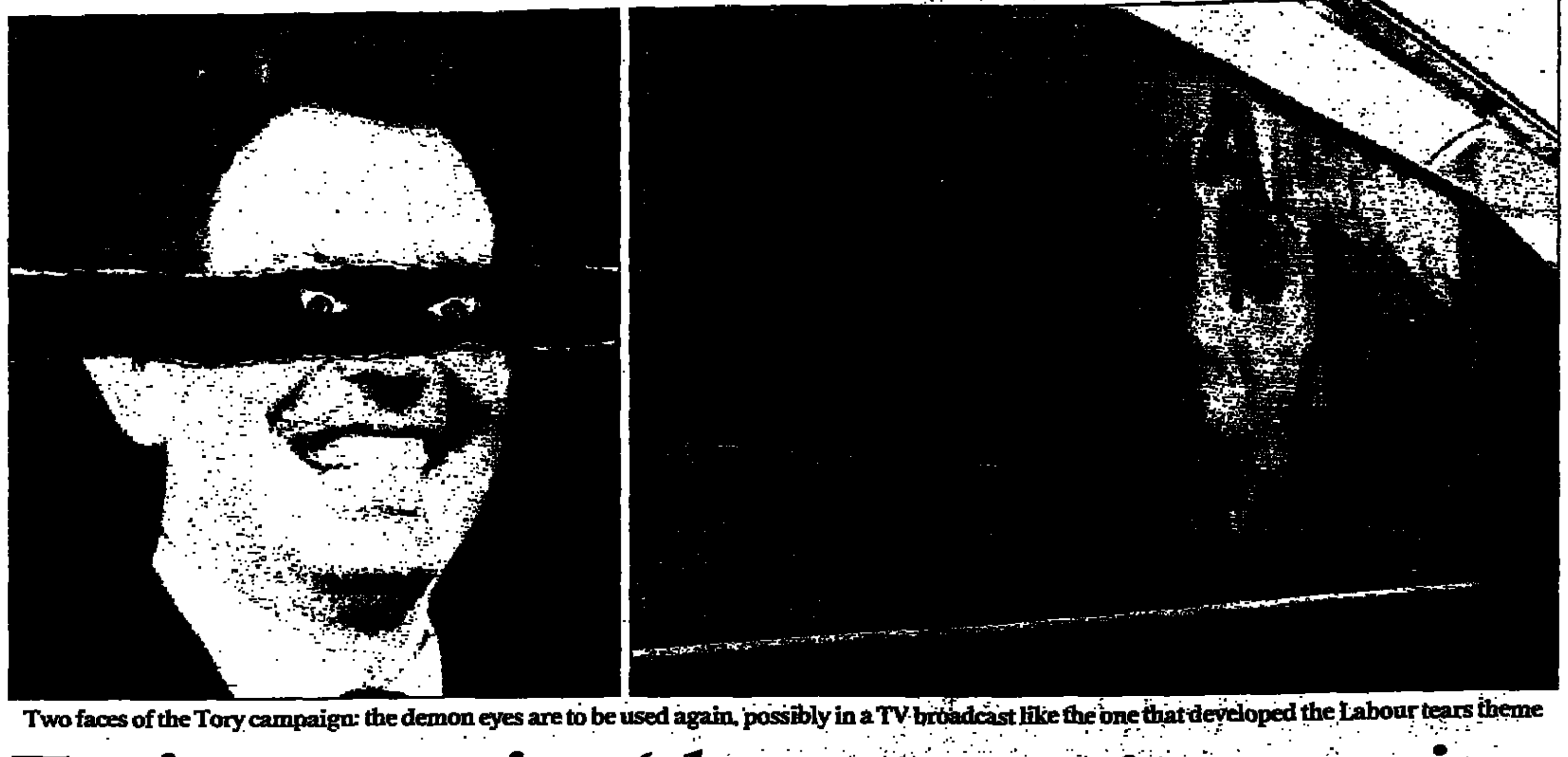
A Treasury source said yesterday: "It was all about timing really. The money was never a particularly big deal. But the Chancellor is now persuaded it is a good thing, for the monarchy and as a boost to Britain's trade and exports."

When Mr Major summoned the *ad hoc* group of ministers to make the final political decision on *Britannia*, the matter had been settled. Ministers had to rubber-stamp the deal and approve an announcement.

No wonder that Mr Portillo was in good form on Tuesday night. He was addressing a dinner for Romsey constituency association, seat of Michael Colvin, chairman of the Defence Select Committee and a campaigner for a new royal yacht. But Mr Portillo said nothing of *Britannia*.

The Queen's private office was told about the decision by telephone on Wednesday morning. The usual Tuesday audience between the Prime Minister and the Queen did not take place this week.

Buckingham Palace was kept informed of the developments, but played no part in the discussions. The Palace view was that any decision on a new royal yacht was purely a matter for the Government.



Two faces of the Tory campaign: the demon eyes are to be used again, possibly in a TV broadcast like the one that developed the Labour tears theme

Tories to revive 'demon eyes' campaign

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

THE Tory demon eyes campaign against Tony Blair, which was censured by the Advertising Standards Authority, is to be used again in the run-up to the general election.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, has been persuaded to resurrect the image — superimposed red glowing eyes on a photograph of Mr Blair — because it has been one of the most successful in the party's electioneering history.

The Tories may use the red eyes as a moving image in a party political broadcast on television or in a nationwide poster campaign, or newspaper advertisements. The Advertising Standards Authority, which condemned the demon eyes advertisement last year, has no jurisdiction over party political broadcasts.

The disclosure that the demon eyes are back on the Tories' agenda comes only days after the their latest party political broadcast. The pioneering commercial has been criticised as "negative campaigning". The 4½-minute film featured only one scene, with a woman sitting in a darkened room listening to the BBC news about life under a Labour government: rising unemployment: hyperinflation: left-wing militancy: and John Prescott at the head of a rebel movement. At the end a blood-red tear dripped from the woman's eye.

John Major saw the film in his Downing Street flat only 24 hours before transmission and overruled some Tory strategists who feared that it would create the wrong impression by conceding that Mr Blair could form a government.

Tory Party chiefs were unrepentant about the tone and may film the same middle-aged woman in a hospital bed to try to illustrate the collapse of the health service under a Labour government. Tuesday's advert was created by Jeremy Sinclair, a partner at M C Saatchi. He was one of the original creative forces at Saatchi & Saatchi with Maurice and Charles in the 1970s. He has worked on virtually every Tory campaign since 1979.

Brian Mawhinney is prepared to ride out the inevitable criticism for his decision to recreate the demon eyes campaign. But he is determined to press ahead after private research showed that it had a bigger impact than Saatchi & Saatchi's Labour isn't Working poster from 1979.

The advertising industry's *Campaign* newspaper voted the demon eyes the campaign of the year. A large copy of the picture has pride of place on the wall of Dr Mawhinney's office at party headquarters. The advertisement was used only once, in three Sunday newspapers, and cost £125,000 but generated free publicity estimated to have been worth £5 million. The idea for it came from Sir Tim Bell and the recently ennobled Maurice Saatchi and Peter Gummer.

One senior Tory official said last night: "We have not decided on the implementation, but one thing is sure: we will use the demon eyes again." One possibility is that the demon eyes will be used on their own, rather than superimposed on Mr Blair's face. "But it will be equally clear who we are aiming at," the official said.

The Advertising Standards Authority ruled last August that the campaign had broken its code of practice by portraying the Labour leader as "sinister and dishonest". The authority said that it should not be repeated. But yesterday a spokesman said: "It was the decision to superimpose the eyes on Tony Blair which made it in breach of the code. They are not prevented from using a similar technique in a different way."

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Clarke's EMU option is all but dead and buried

Kenneth Clarke was last night holding on just by his finger tips to his wait-and-see policy on a single currency. Yesterday's 90-minute Cabinet discussion may not have formally closed off the option, but it has done so in practice. As Malcolm Rifkind said afterwards, "it is unlikely that circumstances would lead to us wishing to join a single currency in January 1999". That was underlined by the later ministerial comments that it was "very unlikely" that the legislation required for entry would be introduced in the first session of the next Parliament. This shift recognises the political realities in the Cabinet and the Tory parliamentary party which Mr Clarke made the best of yesterday.

There has never, of course, been any serious possibility that a re-elected Major Government would enter a single currency in the first wave or at any stage in the next Parliament. The sceptics have wanted a firm declaration that this will not happen and many will make such a commitment in their constituency election addresses. That has been resisted on two grounds.

The first, emphasised by John Major and Mr Rifkind, is that such a decision now would undermine any remaining British influence on the shape of EMU. In theory, that still stands. The second, the implicit position of the Clarke camp, is that keeping open the option ensures that the coming election will not be fought with the two main parties for or against a single currency and that the Tory pro-Europeans will not be bound in the next Parliament by a manifesto commitment against joining.

[redacted]

The statement allows Mr Clarke to claim that entry is still possible in 1999 even though Mr Major and Mr Rifkind gave the opposite impression. The language is all conditional: the word "if" is used three times. Nonetheless, it is a clear victory for the Cabinet sceptics. "Upon the information available to us at present, we reached the conclusion that it was very unlikely, though not impossible, that countries' performance against the criteria would be sufficiently clear and stable for it to proceed safely on January 1, 1999. On that basis there is a strong argument for delay by the EU as a whole. If it did proceed without reliable convergence we would not, of course, be part of it. If the start date were delayed, we would, of course, retain the option to join at a later date, whether that was in the first wave or not."

The Cabinet decision pleased Tory backbench sceptics — even those who claim that it does not go far enough. The electoral impact is less certain: "very unlikely" is hardly as resounding an appeal on the hustings as "never" and Cabinet divisions remain, doubtless to be exposed again during the campaign.

Attention will now turn to Labour. Tony Blair has wanted both to promise that a Labour government would establish a better relationship with the EU and to avoid being portrayed as a soft touch for Brussels. Many senior Labour politicians would like Mr Blair to match the Cabinet's shift. Robin Cook makes no secret of his belief that Britain should not enter in the first wave, even though we should join later if monetary union proves to be successful.

Gordon Brown, however, wants to keep open the first wave option and that was his condition for agreeing last autumn to the promise of a referendum. His allies were insistent last night that there would be no change in Labour policy. Mr Brown is in a stronger position than Mr Clarke. But if Labour wins the election, it is still unlikely that Britain would join in a first wave, not least because a Blair government would have so much else to do. The door may be virtually closed, but it has not yet been locked and bolted.

Peter Riddell

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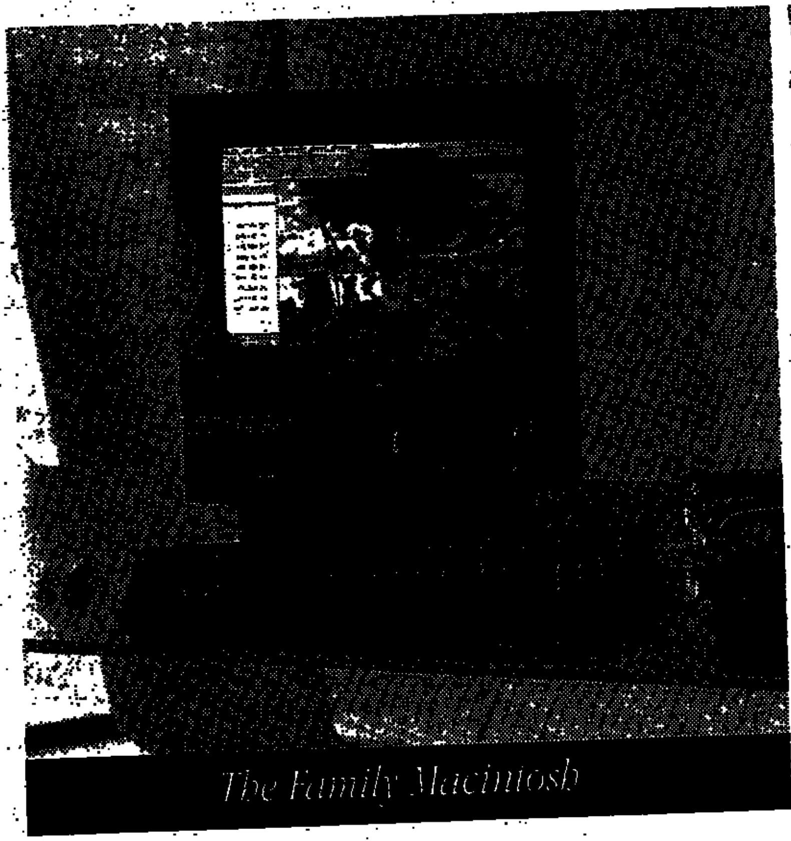

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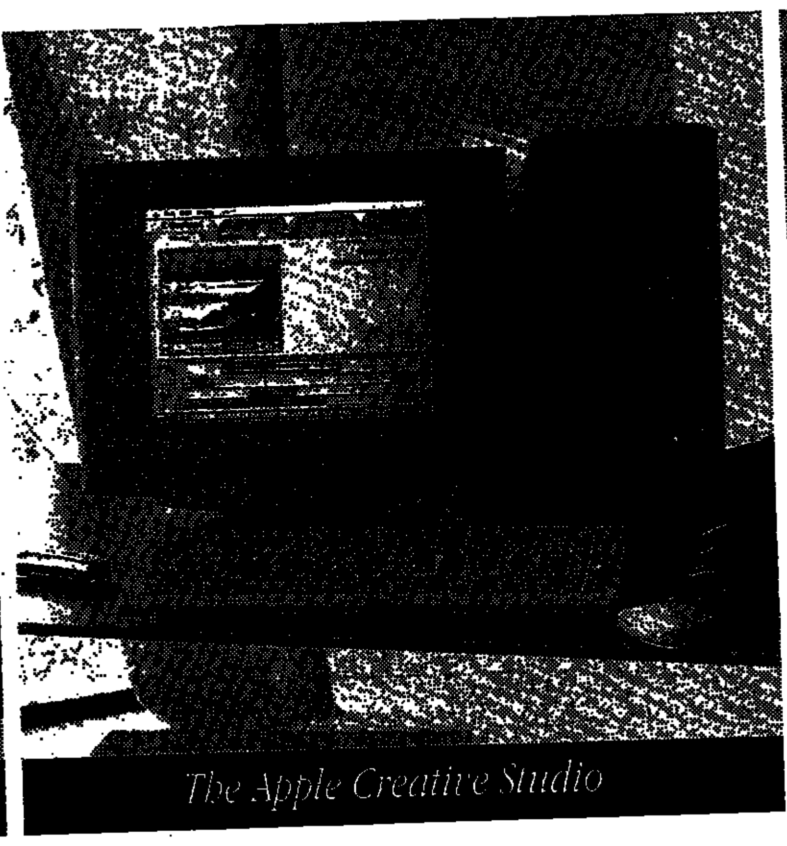

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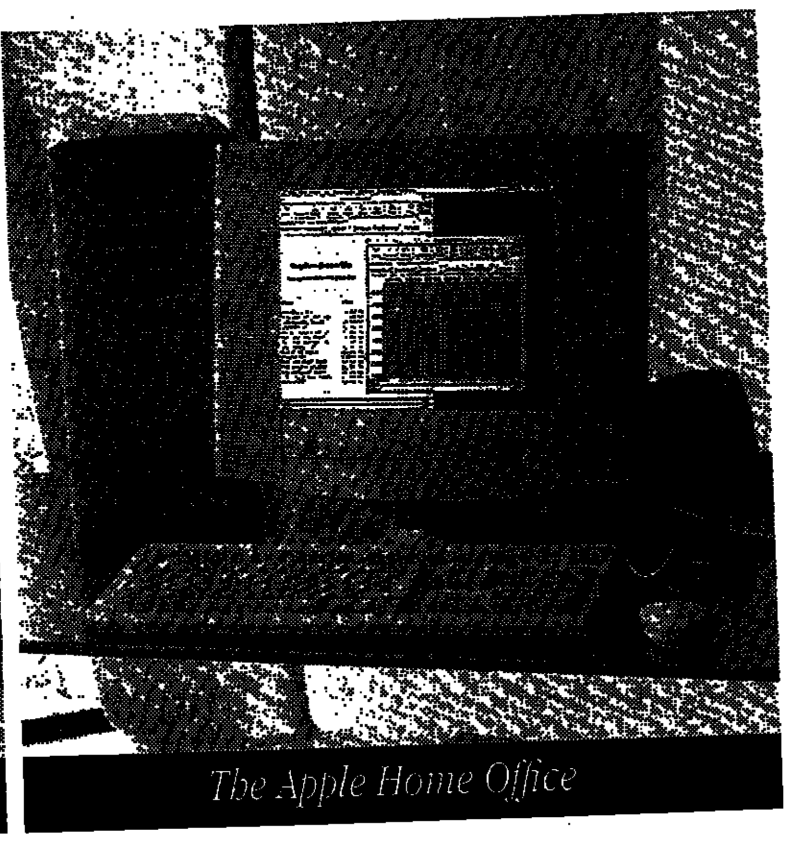

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Pensioner power and memory of Weimar hyper-inflation spell trouble for Chancellor

Ageing Germans seek referendum in anti-euro fight

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

GERMANY'S increasingly *militant 17 million old* age pensioners are emerging as the country's most powerful *opponents to the introduction* of the euro and scrapping of the mark.

The chairman of the so-called Grey Panthers, Trude Unruh, said yesterday: "Old people who have lost their money several times because of currency reforms are overwhelmingly against the euro."

Similar opinions are being expressed by other lobbyists for the over-60s and it is becoming clear that the euro debate in Germany runs not on party lines — the mainstream parties are broadly in favour of EMU, though each contains a number of sceptics — but across the generations.

Banks, responding to hundreds of daily nervous inquiries from pensioners, have set *up special advisory units* for the over-60s. The chief concerns are about the future of *savings, the vulnerability* of maturing life insurance policies and the possibility of inflation eating their pensions.

Frau Unruh's Grey Panthers insist that old people should support the euro only if the Government presses for uniform European taxes. Roswitha Verhuelsdunk, head of the Federal Pensioners Association, says that at every public meeting on the euro she is flooded by anxious questions by pensioners. "People are terrified because they simply cannot imagine what will happen to their money." Jo*achim Faustmann, at the* Association of War Victims, has a similar experience: "With all *the current savings and* cuts in the welfare state, it is hardly surprising that the euro is being rejected."

The fear of inflation sits deep in the older generation. The very oldest — there are 350,000 Germans over 90 — can remember losing their savings in the hyper-inflation of 1923 (when wheelbarrows were needed to carry the money for a loaf of bread); in the economic depression of 1929-1933; and the currency reform of 1948.

The outstanding lawyer Rudolf Wassermann — now 71 and retired from the High Court bench — is demanding a referendum. "It is unbelievable that such a revolutionary act could be carried through without consulting the people . . . the politicians are afraid of the people."

A referendum is regarded as constitutionally difficult and has been ruled out by the Chancellor. Professor Wassermann, however, believes that Article 20 of the Constitution opens the possibility of a popular ballot on the issue.

A recent opinion survey by the Forsa Institute showed that 73 per cent of Germans favour such a move. Threequarters do not believe political pledges that the euro will be as strong as the mark. The over-60s — although some have memories of the unhappy referendums of the Weimar Republic — *strongly favour* the referendum option.

The balance of power is *shifting quickly towards* the over-60s. The young generation up to the age of 20 currently comprises *18* million, only slightly outnumbering the 17.5 million over-60s. But by 2000 their proportion is expected to be 13 million youngsters with 19.3 million over-60s. The spending power of over-60s is stronger than any other generation: average after-tax income for 60/69-year-olds is £530 and for the over-70s £610 a month.

That could translate into serious trouble for Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats in the October 1998 elections and will certainly force the Government to be strict in its choice of who should be excluded from the European monetary union.

Even retired bankers — such as 90-year-old Johannes *Zahn, the former chairman of* the German stock exchange — are coming out publicly against the euro. "The idea that a common currency can be used to even out economic differences in Europe will prove to be a profound mistake," said Professor Zahn, whose opinion still carries weight among younger bankers. Herr Kohl will try to reassure the veteran sceptics in a speech next week.

Leading article and Letters, page 23

HERMANN KNIPPERTZ / AP

Helmut Kohl at a meeting in Bonn yesterday to discuss sweeping tax reforms. The changes could backfire amid growing opposition to a single currency

Rifkind argues for nation state

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

THE nation state has served Britain well as a protector of its freedom, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday. In Britain there was still pride in its achievements, even if the notion made people uncomfortable in other parts of Europe.

In a speech to the French Chamber of Commerce in London, Mr Rifkind said Britain's belief in the role of the nation state should not come as any surprise. "It is not a hangover from a more nationalist era, but a tradition rooted in the experience and culture of the British people. It will not go away."

He said there could not be a return to the Europe of the 1930s, where the balance of power determined alliances and caused wars. But the alternative was not a supranational federal Europe.

Taxation reform could prove pitfall for Kohl

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

THE German Government unveiled an overhaul of the country's confusing tax system yesterday in what it said would be "the reform of the century". Critics, however, said the reform was too cautious, favoured the rich and was unlikely to survive intact after going through the *lengthy procedure of parliamentary* approval.

The plan is to cut the top *income tax rate from 53 per* cent to 39 per cent, but at the same time wipe out the many *tax breaks and loopholes* exploited by higher-income earners. Taxes on companies and company profits are also to come down. At the bottom end of the income scale, the lowest rate is to fall to 20 per cent from its present 25.9 per cent.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, who is being criticised by politicians even in the governing Christian Democratic Union for setting too modest targets, said the reform was a successful step towards the modernisation of Germany.

Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, said it would *increase the attractiveness* of Germany as a place for investment, spur growth and help to ease the unemployment, which stands at 4.1 million.

But the tax changes, part of Helmut Kohl's attempt to project his Government as reformist, contains many hidden pitfalls for Bonn and may backfire on the Chancellor. All tax reforms create winners and losers, but in the case of yesterday's package losers seem to be in the majority.

The shortfall in tax revenue may well have to be met by raising value added tax by 1 or 2 percentage points and by taxing some pensions and life insurance policies. That will alienate many voters. "Raising VAT in order to finance an income tax cut is absolutely the wrong way to go," said Carl-Heinz Daeke, chairman of the Association of Taxpayers. "The Government will be taking out of one pocket what *it puts in the other.*"

One goal of the tax reform — to simplify procedures — *seems to have been abandoned.* And the discarding of tax write-offs and loopholes has *already triggered a fierce* scramble among lobbyists to ensure that the plan is changed before it is ratified. Herr Waigel's Christian Social Union, for example, is upset about dropping tax concessions for car-driving commuters; many rural voters in Bavaria drive a long way to work.

The fundamental flaw, however, is that the tax reform has been oversold. Praised as a cure-all for the sluggish economy, it comes into effect only in 1999, some months *after the general election.* That raises the question why the Government lacks the *political will* to push it through earlier. "So many hopes have been pinned to the reform that, if it fails, you can kiss this Government goodbye." Thomas Mayer, chief economist at Goldman Sachs in Frankfurt, said.

Serbian police fight to keep control of media for Milosevic

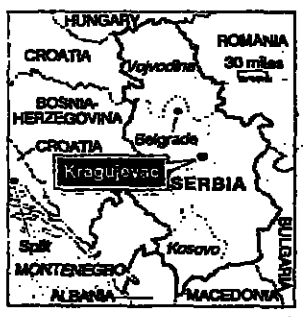
By Tom Walker in Kragujevac and Our Foreign Staff

SERB police beat protesters in this Serbian town yesterday in a confrontation over control of the local media, and municipal leaders gave a warning that violence could spiral.

Hundreds of police had barricaded themselves inside the radio and television station *in the town, 60 miles south of* Belgrade, to prevent a takeover by new city officials. Opponents of President Milosevic surrounded them, threatening to use force to enter, and formed a traffic blockade on the main road to Belgrade. About 60 riot policemen charged with batons, badly beating two protesters.

So unpopular is President Milosevic here that he did not contest the election won recently by the opposition.

In 1989 the Zastava industrial complex was producing 220,000 Yugo and Zastava cars a year, and multimillion-pound consignments of anti-aircraft guns and small arms were being shipped to clients at home and abroad, including the United States. The complex used to provide employment for almost a quarter of the town's 200,000 population.



Today there are *just* a few hundred people working on the production line and Mr *Milosevic is detested* by blue-collar workers. In November's elections, the Zajedno opposition coalition was voted into power. In contrast to his reaction to electoral defeat in many other cities and towns, Mr Milosevic has allowed the Opposition to take power. However, his supporters have retained control of the local *media.*

Aleksandar Radosavljevic, a local opposition leader, said yesterday that negotiations on the handing over of the stations had failed and protests would continue. "Obviously, they don't want any agreement and are determined to keep control of the media," Mr Radosavljevic said.

"Tension is far higher than in Belgrade," says Veroljub Stevanovic, the new Mayor. "The unemployed population is high, and if our demonstrations get bigger there is a large risk of violence. These factories have no future."

The Zastava complex is out of bounds to visitors, being in the hands of directors loyal to Mr Milosevic. The Mayor, an engineer by training, was dismissed from the plant in 1994, along with others who *are now in power in a* bankrupt city hall. "It is a waste of time going there anyway," Mr Stevanovic says. "There's nothing happening and they have absolutely no answers."

About 15,000 demonstrators have been turning out each night to face the police. They copy the tactics so successful in Belgrade, throwing up a piercing wall of sound with whistles, hooters and pans. The local media have tried to stifle news of the protest but a court has ruled in favour of the municipality.

"It is *quite ridiculous* — the station is just 100 yards away, and no mention is ever made *of the protests," says Viloslav* Stevanovic, a novelist and playwright returned from exile *in Paris who hopes to begin* independent broadcasts. "A free media is of the utmost importance. Every third family is starving and every second family has no means to live, and people should know that."

Kragujevac has a history of revolt, having been the breeding ground of an insurrection against the Turks in 1804. After a second uprising it became the capital of Serbia between 1818 and 1841, and home to the nation's first theatre and newspaper.

The few workers who now manage to find shift work earn about £40 a month. The majority, who are classified as being on leave, take home about £11.

Production at the car plant is down to about 5,000 vehicles a year. Work is often halted for want of engines — which come from the crippled Rakovica plant in Belgrade. The Government owes the arms factory £40 million. There is no ready solution to Kragujevac's problems.

Thousands protest over EMU

Athens: Thousands of workers took the day off and marched in protest over the Greek Government's belt-tightening policy and plans to join the European single currency within five years (John Carr writes).

Meanwhile, merchant seamen ended a ten-day strike. A *majority of the Panhellenic* Maritime Federation, the country's biggest marine union, took the decision after the Government moderated a plan to make seamen pay tax.

Panda poachers

Peking: Three people who sold two panda skins were jailed for 15 years by a southern China court. The maximum penalty for killing or selling the fur of the threatened species is death. *(Reuter)*

The last post

Hong Kong: Stamps bearing *the Queen's* image go on sale in Hong Kong tomorrow for the last time. Collectors are in a frenzy over the "last day covers" and the replacement issue, on sale from Sunday.

Algerian plea

Rome: Algeria's main secular opposition leader, Hocine Ait Ahmed, urged President Clinton to appoint a mediator to help to end violence which has killed 160 people in two weeks of bombings. *(Reuter)*

Vote for change

Rome: Parliament has agreed moves to change Italy's *constitution* to try to obtain a stable government and more effici*ent legislature.* Most parties back a federal structure and fewer MPs. *(Reuter)*

Off the airwaves

Brussels: A Belgian teenage aircraft fanatic who used a pirate radio to issue instructions to landing pilots has been arrested. Pilots had been *advised to double-check* instructions. *(AFP)*

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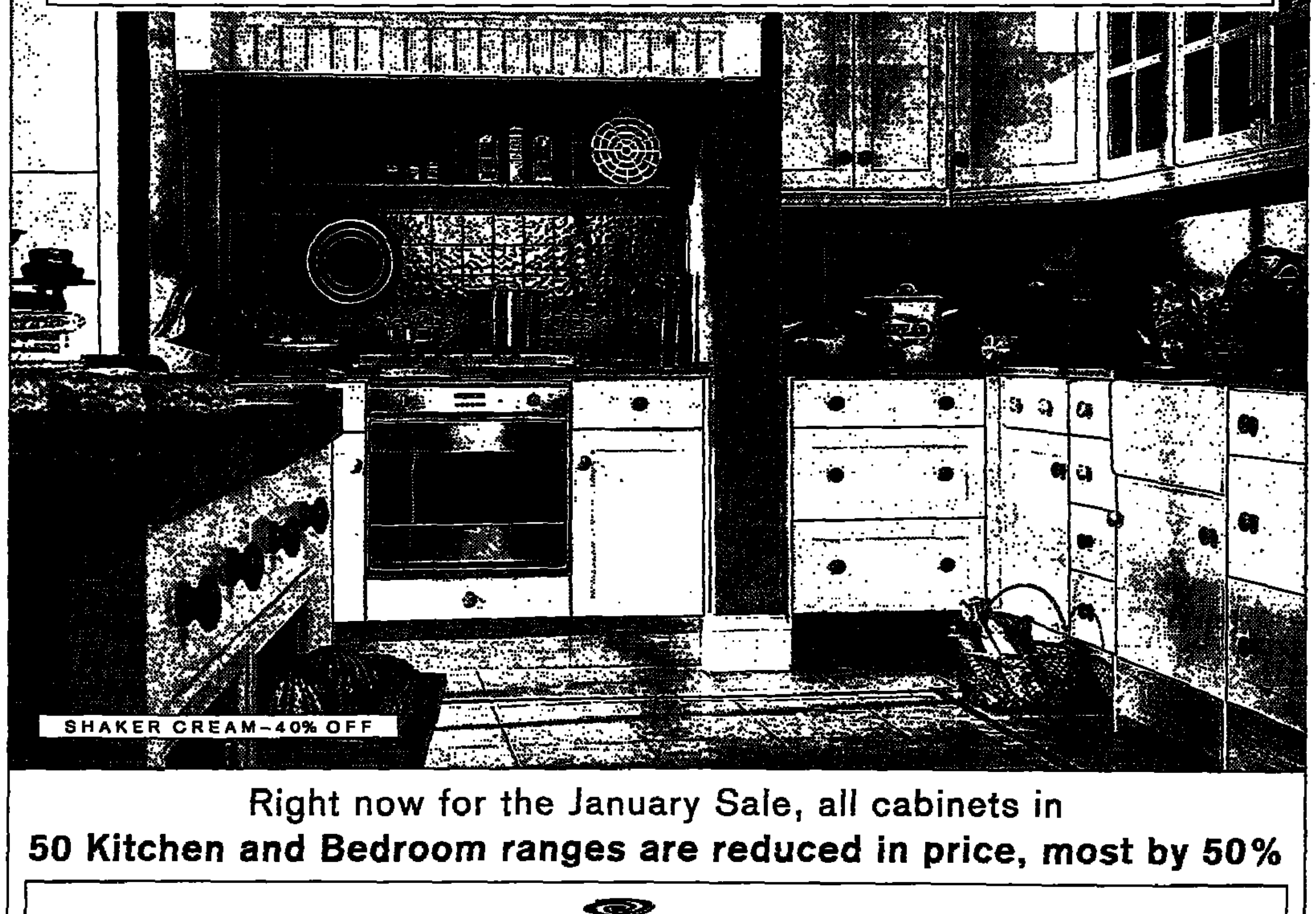

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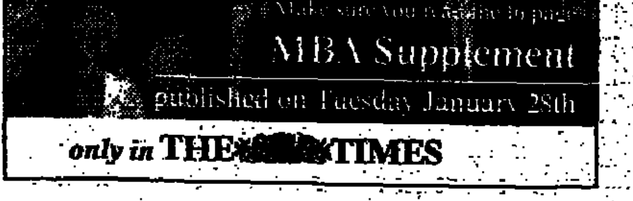
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Vichy chief loses battle to escape Holocaust trial

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Supreme Court yesterday ordered Maurice Papon, accused Nazi collaborator, to be tried for crimes against humanity, removing the last legal hurdle to a trial that has been blocked and delayed for 15 years.

M Papon, 86, will face trial by jury in Bordeaux, the city where, as regional secretary-general under the collaborationist Vichy regime, he allegedly ordered 1,690 Jews to be sent to their deaths in Nazi concentration camps.

By rejecting M Papon's last appeal against a trial, France's highest court has set the scene for what historians say is a final opportunity for France to examine its wartime past in a court of law.

M Papon is the only senior Vichy official left alive, and will be only the second Frenchman to stand trial for crimes against humanity. He immediately attacked the Supreme Court decision as "scandalous" and said in a statement that it would provide an opportunity for Communists, "the leftist lobby" and foreigners to smear France by linking the Vichy regime to the Nazi Holocaust.

"As in all political trials, the outcome has already been settled with the authorities," M Papon said, comparing himself to Captain Alfred Dreyfus, the Jewish army officer falsely convicted of treason in 1884.

In a 50,000-page dossier assembled by prosecutors, M Papon is accused of being an accomplice to kidnapping and murder, arbitrary arrest, inhuman acts and the arrest of minors. About 223 children were among the Jews sent to Nazi death camps, allegedly on M Papon's orders.

The late François Mitterrand, himself a former Vichy official, admitted attempting to delay trials for crimes against humanity to preserve what he called "civil peace".

Papon: says he did not know about Holocaust

Paul Touvier, a low-ranking militia officer, was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity in 1994. He died in prison last year.

M Papon's lawyers insist that the ageing bureaucrat, who went on to become Finance Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, was not an anti-Semite, but instead an active member of the Resistance who tried to alleviate the suffering of deportees.

Prosecutors, who will cite a raft of deportation documents bearing M Papon's signature, say that he cannot have been unaware of what would happen to the Jews deported from Bordeaux to Auschwitz.

"The evidence against Maurice Papon is overwhelming," Jean-Pierre Dintilhac, the state prosecutor, told a packed courtroom during arguments last Thursday. "Undoubtedly, there should be others along with him on the stand. The fact that he is alone does not exonerate him."

M Papon has denied the charges, saying he sacrificed a few Jews to save others. He has said he knew nothing about the Holocaust, never embraced Nazi ideology and was merely doing his job.

PASCAL GUYOT / EPA

Pierre Gagnaire at his restaurant in St Etienne in the Loire region that was forced to close through bankruptcy. It had been awarded three stars in the Michelin guide

Grants dished out to France's 'artistic' chefs

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE French art of cookery has finally taken its place alongside painting, music and literature as a branch of national culture worthy of government backing — and taxpayers' money.

This week the Culture Ministry announced it would begin awarding annual financial grants to France's most talented young chefs, a move the country's cooks hailed as belated recognition of their status as artists rather than artisans.

Philippe Douste-Blazy, the Minister of Culture, said that henceforth three junior chefs setting up their own restaurants will receive grants of Fr100,000 (£12,500) each, while established masters of gastronomy will also be granted subsidies to tide them over sticky economic times.

Several top chefs are in financial trouble, facing declining revenues and diminished appetites, as well as competition from smaller bistros and fast-food outlets.

"This is a major breakthrough," Christian Conticini of the Paris restaurant La Table d'Anvers said. "At long last this is proof that we have passed from the status of workmen to that of creative artists."

M Douste-Blazy announced the grants at the restaurant newly opened by Pierre Gagnaire, a master chef forced recently to declare bankruptcy at his restaurant in St Etienne in the Loire — the first time a restaurant awarded three Michelin stars has had to close.

Bernard Pivot, a cultural commentator, said that recognition of French chefs as cultural artists was long overdue. "When one sees Pierre Gagnaire innovating, continually adventuring, taking every risk, there is no other word to describe him. What I like best about artists is their imprudence," M Pivot said.

But while many young chefs applauded the mouth-watering prospect of receiving succulent government grants, some gourmets have been critical, fearing official sponsorship is the first step towards government control. "It is scandalous," the food critic Philippe Couderc declared. "And why don't we help young plumbers to get started? And subsidise the Eiffel tower? ... This is an immense step back towards the Old Regime. Why don't we just make them official chefs to royalty?"

The grants will be dispensed by the National Council of Culinary Arts and the French Institute for Financing Cinema and Cultural Industries. To qualify, chefs must be under 35 and show exceptional culinary promise and prowess. A jury of five of France's greatest chefs will select the annual winners.

Lebed plays his Trump card in Big Apple

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

RUSSIA'S former national security chief, Aleksandr Lebed, has followed the example of his opponent, Boris Yeltsin, by visiting New York to flirt with capitalists and build his reputation abroad.

General Lebed, 46, the ambitious ex-soldier who was sacked by President Yeltsin last year, arrived in Manhattan this week after attending the American presidential inauguration in Washington. His sojourn, conducted as "a private citizen", may be compared to the contact-building trip Mr Yeltsin made to the United States in 1991, before he gained power.

General Lebed has met politicians and businessmen and schooled himself in the media-savvy, slick-image ways of the New World. His presence at President Clinton's inauguration was arranged by two Republican senators, William Roth of Delaware and Gordon Smith of Oregon.

He visited senior executives at Du Pont, the pharmaceuticals company, and on Wednesday met that most vivid of capitalist property developers, Donald Trump. Mr Trump, who rewarded his visitor with a glass apple souvenir, told a large posse of reporters that he had found General Lebed "terrific". It is not a word one often hears applied to the gruff Russian, but General Lebed has made an effort to appeal to the American people.

He produced a string of one-liners which seemed designed to titillate Western tastes. "If the rape is unavoidable, relax and try to enjoy it," he said with an archly raised eyebrow when asked about the expansion of Nato eastwards into former Iron Curtain countries. "Do you have any heroes?" someone asked. "No heroes," said General Lebed. "Even the sun has spots."

In a message for potential investors who have been wary about Russia, General Lebed said: "He who doesn't take risks, does not drink champagne." To illustrate his belief that it was time for Russia to find an improved system of government, he said: "There has got to be a time when you stop stepping on the same rake".

Mr Trump, whose achievements include erecting some of Manhattan's boldest skyscrapers and who wants to build in Moscow, was warned by his new friend that a high-rise by the Russian capital's citadel might not gain planning permission. "We cannot have anyone spitting from the roof on to the Kremlin," he said, with a tweak of a smile.

When the rising Boris Yeltsin swung through Manhattan in the early Nineties there were rumours of heavy drinking sessions — one disobliging report said that he treated America like "one long bar".

General Lebed has been more careful.

After this trip, he is certainly viewed as a more civilised figure by the stewards of American public opinion.

Godfathers trip the light fantastic in Mafia 'gangsta rap' musical

Rome: A woman film director in Sicily has given a new meaning to the term "gangsta rap" by devising a rap musical based on the internecine feuds of the Italian Mafia (Richard Owen writes).

Gang warfare and the underworld have formed the backdrop to several musicals, from *Guys and Dolls* to *Bugsy Malone*. But in Italy the Mafia is *no* laughing matter. The authorities are engaged in a battle with Mafia bosses in an attempt to destroy the leadership and the network of fear and family loyalties on which it depends, partly by protecting mafiosi willing to betray the organisation by becoming supergrasses.

Roberta Torre, 34, a video director who moved from Milan to Palermo ten years ago, said she had lived with "illegality and degradation" in Sicily and it "had a vitality of its own". The musical, entitled *Tano — da morire (Tano — to die for)*, is based on a true story, Signora Torre said.

The plot revolves round a small-time Mafia boss, called Tano Guarrasi in the musical, who is shot in the chest by rival gangsters at his butcher's shop in the old market at Vucciria, a district of Palermo. Signora Torre overheard the story in a trattoria.

It is based on an incident at the height of the war at the end of the 1980s between the Corleone clan, then led by Salvatore "Toto" Riina, and other families.

In one scene gangsters eliminate one of their rivals in a bloody shootout to the strains of a jazz medley. In another, Mafia wives dance a samba, singing: "We are the slaves and they are the bosses."

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British staff sent home after sale of visas in Nigeria

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND LIN JENKINS

DETECTIVES are investigating widescale corruption concerning the sale of British visas to Nigerians, Scotland Yard confirmed last night.

British staff at the British High Commission in Lagos dealing with visas have been sent home after a team from the Metropolitan Police Organised Crime Group began inquiries in Nigeria last month.

The team uncovered systematic fraud involving large sums of money, and as a result of the preliminary findings the Foreign Office recalled up to four of the 29 staff deployed in the country. All worked in the visa section.

Scotland Yard said: "Officers of the Organised Crime Group have been asked to investigate alleged corruption involving the issuing of British visas in Nigeria." The team of four, under a superintendent, will be interviewing a number of people, after its visit to the country on December 10.

The Foreign Office said: "We can confirm that some members of staff have returned from Lagos to help the Metropolitan Police with their inquiries. We are not able to say more about the names or numbers of staff concerned while the investigation continues." It refused to discuss details. The investigation, however, is unprecedented in its scope and in the intense embarrassment it causes the Government.

Britain played a leading role in persuading the rest of the Commonwealth to refuse visas to military personnel and other senior government officials as one of the sanctions put in place in 1995 because of the Nigerian military Government's refusal to accelerate a return to democracy.

Suggestions that consular officials corruptly issued visas for Nigerians seeking to visit Britain not only undermine this policy, but will be used by Commonwealth countries opposed to any strengthening of the sanctions to level charges of hypocrisy against Britain.

Nigeria is a country that has become notorious for corruption, bribery and brazen quasi-official attempts at extortion. Almost no business transaction is free from the taint of bribery. Thousands of businessmen and individuals in Britain have received letters proposing the laundering of profits from overcharging on government contract — only to find that, after paying an initial sum for administrative costs to a Nigerian address, no money is ever sent from Nigeria.

The British Government has warned businessmen about such scams. The Foreign Office has also insisted that the visa ban is one of the most effective ways of putting pressure on General Sani Abacha, as families of his military coterie often want to come to London for shopping and holidays. The Foreign Office has also denied that Nigerians connected with the military regime have been granted visas for Britain.

FBI chief accuses Saudis over bomb

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SAUDI ARABIA was accused yesterday of withholding evidence about the terrorist bombing of a barracks in which 19 American servicemen were killed last June.

The allegation was made by Louis Freeh, director of the FBI, who has made three visits to Riyadh since the bombing to try to wring more information from the Saudis. They have remained intransigent despite a pledge by King Fahd of full collaboration with American investigators, including their right to question suspects and witnesses.

Mr Freeh's admission of failure not only disclosed his own frustration but also amounted to rare public criticism by a Washington official of Saudi Arabia, supposedly a close American ally. It was a reversal of the Clinton Administration's previous insistence that the Saudis were willing to co-operate with the inquiries.

Riyadh's refusal to be more forthcoming has important implications for American policy in the Middle East. The Saudis have been trying to pin blame for the bombings on Iran, saying that the terrorists were trained and supplied with Iranian backing in Lebanon. If that accusation were true, President Clinton would have a strong case for retaliating against Iran to avenge the loss of American lives. But he dare not act without concrete evidence.

The Americans have been given only hearsay evidence in many cases and there is a great deal of evidence they have not seen. "I do not have enough information to make strong findings or conclusions," Mr Freeh told *The Washington Post*. With his requests for more details going unanswered, Mr Freeh said, the FBI's ability to channel its inquiries in different directions had been affected adversely.

Saudi police did share forensic science details and physical evidence from the huge lorry bomb that tore off the front of Khobar Towers near the air base in Dharan. But they have drawn the line at granting direct access to witnesses or potential suspects. Instead, the Americans have been offered only videotapes of interrogations and transcripts of conversations overheard on wiretaps.

MOHAMMAD ALI / REUTER

Jemima Khan, wife of Imran Khan, is embraced in Islamabad yesterday by a woman activist of her husband's party after she had addressed a women's rally in support of his campaign for the coming national elections

Warning to Arafat

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has drawn up a contingency plan should Yassir Arafat declare a Palestinian state which Israeli officials say involves the reoccupation of much of the West Bank (Christopher Walker writes).

The existence of the plan was revealed by Mr Netanyahu in an Israeli television interview after President Arafat announced in Cairo on Wednesday that a declaration of the state would probably be made in the middle of next year. "The Palestinian state is not an Israeli issue; it is an Arab, international issue," Mr Arafat said.

Mr Netanyahu said the Palestinians could discuss statehood in negotiations, "but they certainly cannot do it unilaterally, because that is a violation of the agreement". Asked what he would do if such a step were taken, Mr Netanyahu said: "A great deal. I have a contingency plan ready."

Israel army radio, quoting sources in the Prime Minister's office, said the plan called for the army to reoccupy most of the rural areas of the West Bank.

Chinese reject protest

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday rejected a British protest over proposed changes Peking intends to make to Hong Kong laws on its new-found civil liberties, and complained that Britain was forcing its will on others.

"We cannot accept the British protest," Shen Guofang, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said referring to the "serious concern" Jeremy Hanley, a Foreign Office minister, had expressed on Wednesday after summoning Jiang Enzhu, the Chinese Ambassador.

Mr Shen called the British action "totally unreasonable", adding that the so-called protest was unwise. He insisted that Hong Kong would be "China's internal affair" after Peking resumes control on June 30.

Mr Hanley's protest was over China's plans to dilute the Bill of Rights and other related laws guaranteeing civil liberties in Hong Kong after the change of sovereignty.

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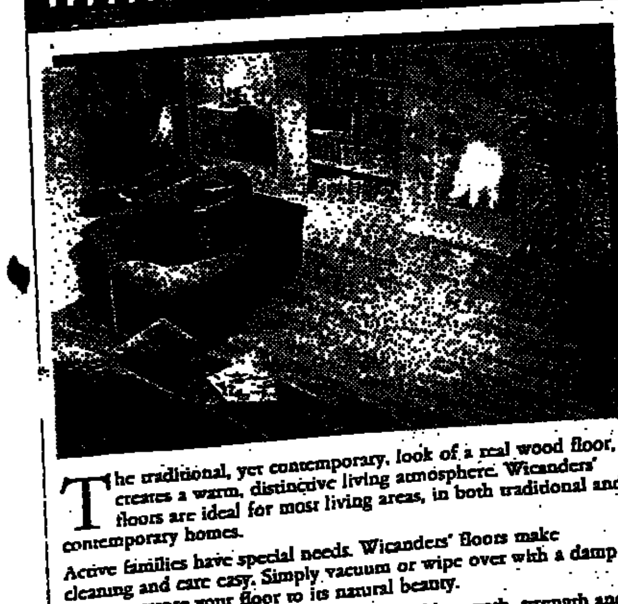

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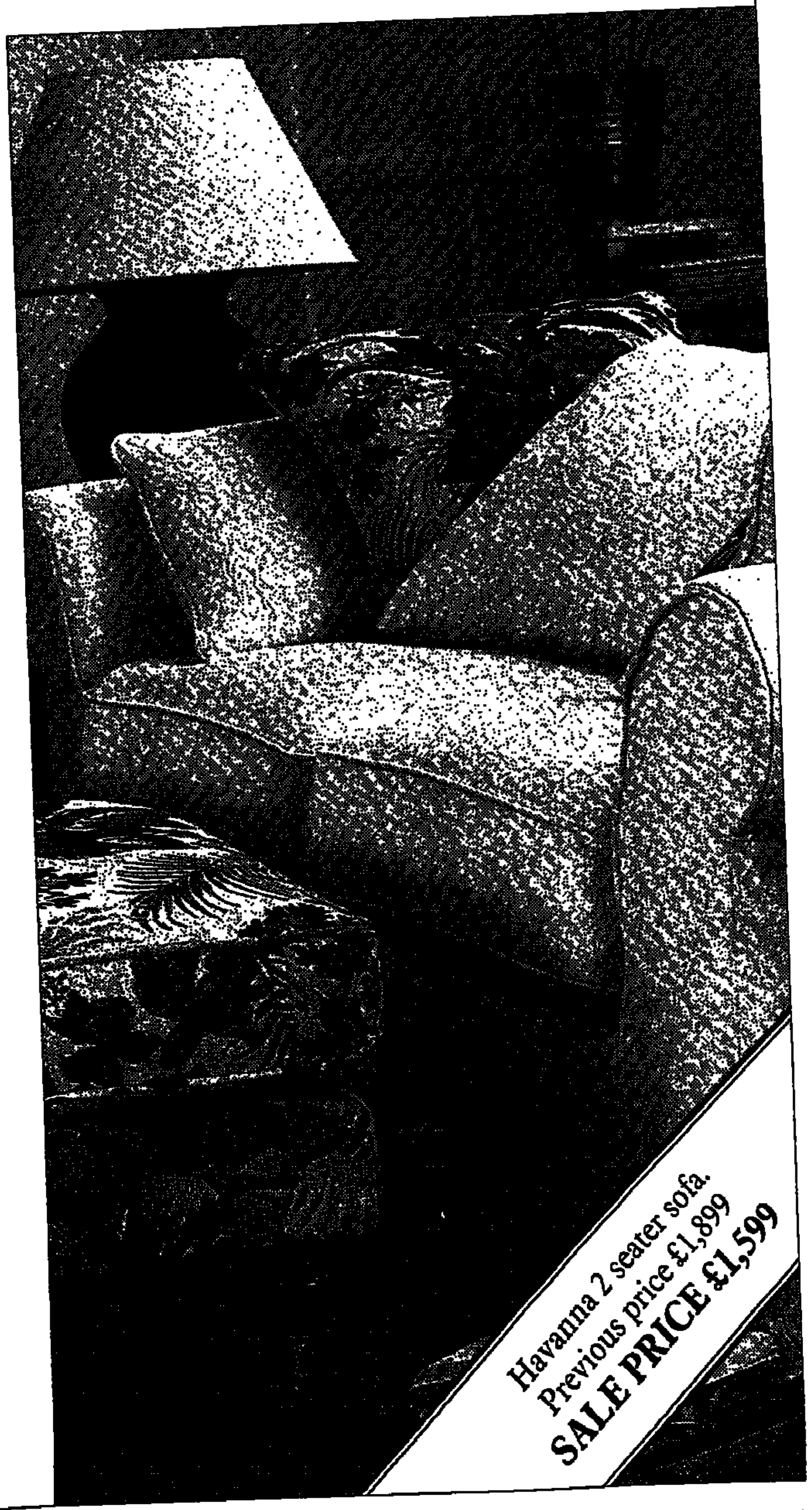

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Clinton under fire over aide's help for Asian funder

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ONLY three days into his second term, President Clinton's honeymoon ended abruptly yesterday in a series of embarrassing revelations indicating American policy favours were up for sale.

One of his longstanding aides had tried to push through an unusual $6.5 million (£3.9 million) financing deal requested by one of the Democratic Party's largest Asian donors.

Four months after Mr Clinton signed a law last year barring financial transactions between American companies and countries accused of supporting terrorism, the Administration discreetly exempted Sudan where an American corporation was pursuing a $930 million oil deal which later failed.

The exemption to the 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act allowed Occidental Petroleum Corporation to negotiate with Khartoum despite Sudan's position on a State Department list as sponsor of terrorism. Questions were raised as to whether Occidental, which donated $600,000 to both political parties in the past two years, may have influenced the decision.

It is the financing deal, however, coming within days of Mr Clinton's promise to cleanse his party of all funds donated by foreigners living in the United States, that will touch a nerve at the White House. This may prove to be the smoking gun that Republicans have been seeking in their attempts to prove that American policy was auctioned to the highest bidder during last year's campaign.

It involved Maria Haley, one of the President's personal appointees at the Export-Import Bank. The deal she was pressing called for the American Government to help a company controlled by one of Thailand's wealthiest families to finance a Blockbuster video store franchise in Bangkok. Although the proposal was opposed by many in Washington, on the ground that it fell outside the bank's mandate of encouraging exports to support American employment, Ms Haley urged her staff to support the project.

The deal collapsed over questions about the operations of the franchise. The financial package was in large part structured by Pauline Kanchanalak, a Thai citizen living in Virginia, whose family's $200,000 donations to the Democratic Party last year are under investigation.

The donations by Mrs Kanchanalak and her family were solicited by John Huang, the Democratic fundraiser at the heart of a federal inquiry into questionable contributions from Asian sources. He arranged for her to attend a coffee morning at the White House when Mrs Kanchanalak donated $85,000.

RICK T. WILKING / REUTER

AL GORE, the American Vice-President, kisses Madeleine Albright after she was sworn in yesterday as the first woman US Secretary of State. President Clinton, family members and senior administration officials clustered around Ms Albright, 59, after she had taken the oath of office in the Oval Office — a day after the Senate confirmed her nomination. The daughter of a Czech diplomat and a former ambassador to the United Nations, Ms Albright has said that she will make enlarging Nato and improving ties with China her priorities during her tenure. She said yesterday that her first task will be "to go over to the State Department and tell them all that we have a very important job to do". Ms Albright succeeds Warren Christopher, who was Secretary of State during Mr Clinton's first term.

Albright makes US history

Grounded pilots sue for right to fly past 60

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AIRLINE pilots in America are going to law in an attempt to stop ageism in the cockpit. They want to overturn a federal rule that stipulates retirement for pilots at 60.

The Professional Pilots' Federation, a trade association with 2,500 members, has brought an action in a Washington DC court against America's Federal Aviation Administration. FAA rules forbid any commercial aircraft with ten or more seats from being piloted by anyone older than 59.

The pilots say the law, in force since 1959, is discriminatory and prevents some of the most experienced — and therefore, they say, the safest — pilots from working.

Europe recently changed its regulations. Older pilots may now work as co-pilots, provided cockpit colleagues are younger than 60.

Not all American airline pilots support the legal action. The Air Line Pilots' Association backs the status quo for reasons of "public safety".

Americans angry after Cuba signs pact with Canada

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CANADA angered and baffled Washington yesterday by reaching a remarkable 14-point agreement with Cuba that includes co-operation on human rights and striking back at the controversial American law designed to penalise Cuba's foreign investors.

The agreement, which runs counter to US efforts to isolate Cuba's Communist Government, was reached after a three-hour dinner between President Castro and Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, followed by an unscheduled lunch of similar length for the pair the following day.

American reaction ranged from a conviction that the Canadians were naive, to assertions that they were determined to embarrass the United States. Or maybe they were trying to flaunt their independence from European allies who also oppose the Helms-Burton law, which seeks to impose sanctions on those trading with Cuba.

A spokesman for Jesse Helms, the Republican senator who co-authored the Bill, accused Mr Axworthy of going to Cuba with only one purpose in mind — "to poke a finger in the eye of the United States". The spokesman, Marc Thiessen, said the agreement would not improve the human rights of a single Cuban.

Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said the United States remained very sceptical that the Cuban Government was prepared to take meaningful steps that would lead to democratic rule in Cuba or reflect a change of attitude on human rights. Mr Burns said: "It doesn't make sense to reward a dictator in our hemisphere who is completely behind the times."

As if to underline Cuba's disregard for human rights, three dissidents were arrested during Mr Axworthy's 24-hour visit for trying to produce economic and independent news reports outside the state-controlled media. Two were later released.

Under the agreement, Canada and Cuba made an opaque pledge to broaden and deepen co-operation on human rights through joint seminars and academic exchanges between officials, professionals and experts. Mr Axworthy said he had requested the release of specific political prisoners in Cuba, but did not say if he had received any assurances about them.

Roberto Robaina, the Cuban Foreign Minister, said there were no taboo subjects for Cuba, as long as it was treated with respect. But no matter how respectful the criticism, he made it clear that Cuba would accept lessons from no one and that human rights in Cuba were a strictly Cuban responsibility.

Canada and Cuba agreed to negotiate how to strike back at the US over Helms-Burton, but gave no details. They also agreed to co-operate over justice, including exchanges of judges and judicial training.

Unlike the United States, Canada has no trade embargo with Cuba and is Señor Castro's largest overseas trading partner. Mr Axworthy said the agreement was the Canadian way of doing things — "neither European nor American".

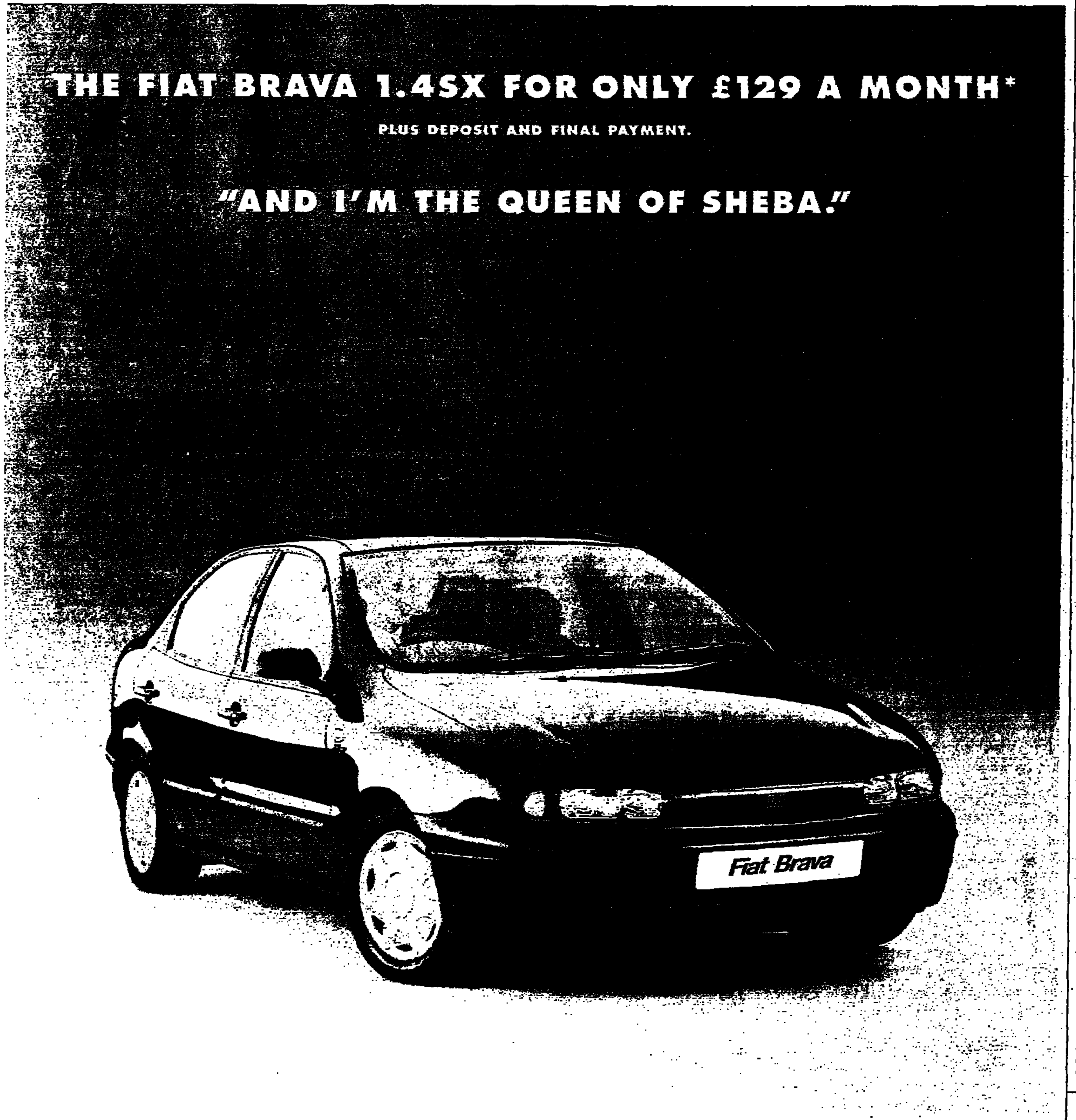
CNN expects to have man in Havana

BY ERIC REGULY

CNN, the US-based television news channel, expects to get American permission next month to open a bureau in Cuba, the only country from which it has been barred.

The approval would end a battle between CNN and Washington that began in November when President Castro gave CNN permission to open a news office in Havana.

CNN made plans to become the first American news organisation to have a base there since Associated Press was expelled in 1969. But the channel was told it would need a US government licence to start operations.



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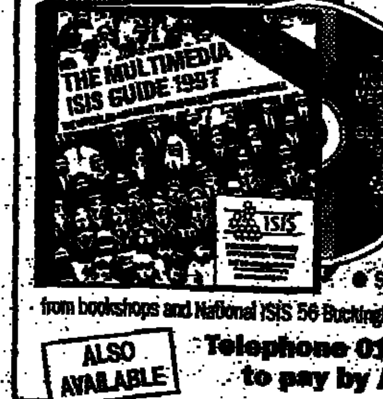

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US lawsuit reveals duty-free tycoon as Sinn Fein donor

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A PROMINENT Irish-American businessman who is Sinn Fein's single largest contributor in the United States has been forced by a bitter court battle to open carefully guarded records of his $3.5 billion (£2.1 billion) global financial empire, making clear that he has made donations to many Irish causes.

According to *The New York Times*, Charles Feeney, a New Jersey businessman who made his fortune with an international network of duty-free shops and retailers, has given away $600 million in charitable donations in the past 15 years.

Contributions to Irish educational and community groups account for more than half of the international gifts by Mr Feeney's two foundations, the Atlantic Foundation and the Atlantic Trust, and for more than a quarter of their total donations.

In addition, Mr Feeney has emerged as the single largest American donor to Friends of Sinn Fein, a group set up three years ago to air Sinn Fein's views in America and to raise funds. In the six months to last October Mr Feeney gave $120,000 to the lobby group, three quarters of its income in that period. The money was used to support its Washington office. According to *The New York Times*, Mr Feeney has given a total of $280,000 to the group.

In a laudatory piece headlined "He gave away $600 million, and no one knew", the newspaper, which usually treats Sinn Fein with sympathy, lauded Mr Feeney yesterday for his practice of secret philanthropy. It says that he has transfered all but about $5 million of his net assets, estimated at $3.5 billion, to his two charitable foundations.

In a rare interview, Mr Feeney, who is well known for flying economy class, is reported as saying: "I simply decided I had enough money. It does not drive my life. I am a what-you-see-is-what-you-get kind of guy."

Mr Feeney is reported as saying that his donations to Sinn Fein "had been carefully monitored to ensure that they supported only non-violent activities", and that he had continued supporting the Washington office despite the ceasefire's collapse last February "because I am hopeful that it will be renewed".

The secretive Mr Feeney has guarded the privacy of his financial affairs for years. His two foundations, and the parent company of Duty Free Shoppers, the international duty-free empire he founded with Robert Miller, a fellow American, are registered in Bermuda and are exempt from filing detailed financial returns.

But, according to *The New York Times*, Mr Feeney has been obliged to lift a corner of the veil because of a fiercely contested lawsuit with Mr Miller, his business partner for 35 years.

Mr Miller has been fighting to stop Mr Feeney and a former shareholder from selling a controlling stake in Duty Free Shoppers to the luxury goods company LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton, which is a supplier and direct competitor of Duty Free Shoppers.

Mr Feeney achieved prominence during the Irish peace process when he took part in a 1994 delegation of Irish-American businessmen to meet Irish political and business leaders.

According to yesterday's disclosures, his foundations have given more than $10 million to each of Trinity College and Dublin City University, as well as many smaller gifts to educational and community projects.

AP / SUSAN STERNER

Daniel Petrocelli, left, leading attorney for the plaintiff, Fred Goldman, with his client and Patti Goldman during the lunch break outside the Santa Monica court yesterday, while O.J. Simpson, right, arrives at court for the closing stages of the civil case against him

O.J. Simpson lawyer accuses police of prejudice

FROM REUTER
IN SANTA MONICA

O.J. SIMPSON'S leading attorney accused the Los Angeles Police Department and the FBI of being prejudiced against his client in his closing argument at the former football star's civil trial yesterday.

Robert Baker said the two law-enforcement agencies had spent "thousands and thousands of their dollars ... to assist plaintiffs in a civil case" and asked: "Is that fair?" He said the proof of his claim was that he was unable to get Los Angeles officers and detectives to testify without issuing subpoenas, while police and agents of the FBI freely volunteered their services to the plaintiffs.

"The FBI and the LAPD don't want a level playing field," Mr Baker said.

His allegations added a new twist to the main defence theme that Los Angeles police botched the investigation and planted evidence to frame Mr Simpson for the June 1994 murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend. Mr Simpson was acquitted of the murders after a criminal trial that ended in October 1995. His civil trial for causing wrongful death is in its closing stages and the jury is expected to begin its deliberations at any moment.

Daniel Petrocelli, who represents Goldman's father, Fred Goldman, earlier pleaded with the jury to force Mr Simpson to pay compensation to Mr Goldman for the loss of his son. But he stopped short of naming a figure, saying: "You can't put a value on the loss of a son, you can't put a price tag on it."

"True justice [for Fred Goldman] would be to see Ron Goldman walk through those doors right now, to see Nicole Brown Simpson playing with her children. That will never happen, they are gone forever." Mr Petrocelli said.

Then, turning and pointing dramatically at Mr Simpson, he said: "There is nothing he can do to bring him back. All you [the jury] have in your power to do is to bring about some small measure of justice by requiring the man responsible to pay for Fred Goldman's loss."

UN chief secures pledge on debt by White House

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, partially succeeded in his mission to Washington yesterday after President Clinton promised he would work with Republicans in Congress to repay the more than $1 billion (£600 million) American debt to the world organisation.

After meeting Mr Annan at the White House, Mr Clinton said his federal budget would include a provision to ensure prompt repayment of the debt, an issue which has overshadowed relations between Washington and the UN.

"As the UN moves towards reform, it must also know that the United States is prepared to pay its way," said the President. "In the weeks ahead I will be working with Congress to reach an agreement in which America can pay our arrears to the UN."

At issue is whether Congress, increasingly dissatisfied with overspending at the UN, will accept Mr Annan's assurances to the White House and those on Capitol Hill that he plans to reform the organisation in New York. He was due last night to meet Jesse Helms, the chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee and the most outspoken critic of UN policy.

Mr Clinton, allowing himself some political leverage, said he would not be able to persuade Republicans in Congress to pay the $1.3 billion debt unless they were convinced that reform would indeed take place.

The secretary-general arrived in the capital the previous evening with the simple message that he had come as a "creditor, not a beggar", and admitted that over 50 years the UN had "picked up extra baggage."

Mr Annan, a Ghanaian diplomat who succeeded Boutros-Boutros Ghali at the helm of the UN, acknowledged that relations with Congress had been acrimonious in the past, but he hoped to persuade opponents that money was needed to reshape the organisation in preparation for the 21st century.

In speaking to administration officials, he was essentially preaching to the converted — they agree the United States should pay its debts. The real struggle is with members of Congress, who have blocked past payments of dues.

Republican leaders have expressed willingness to pay off the debt, but have attached conditions that appear beyond the power of any UN chief to deliver.

While legally the United States owes the United Nations $1.3 billion, the calculation in Washington is $500 million less.

Annan: has promised to bring in reforms

Two accused of soap star's death go on trial

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZILIANS watched a real-life soap opera unfold with the opening of the murder trial of a couple accused of using scissors to stab to death a young actress.

The long-awaited trial began on Wednesday in a packed Rio de Janeiro courtroom and will go out live on Globo TV. It will retrace what happened on the night of December 28, four years ago, when Daniella Perez's body was found dumped in a field in a plush Rio suburb.

The stunning actress, 22, had starred in the soap opera *Body and Soul*, watched by 100 million viewers nightly, and was the daughter of one of Brazil's better known screenwriters. She had been stabbed 18 times with a pair of scissors after suffering blows to the head, forensic science experts said.

Accused of her murder are her screen lover in the soap, Guilherme Padua, 27, and his now-estranged wife Paula Thomaz, 25. They are said to have lured Daniella into their car at a service station, then driven her to a desolate spot to carry out the attack.

They have been in prison awaiting trial for the past four years. The actor, who first admitted the murder, now denies delivering the blows, saying his wife went for his co-star in a "jealous rage".

Senhora Thomaz gave birth to a son in prison and the couple separated during pre-trial proceedings at which each accused the other of the killing. She has denied involvement, saying she was shopping at the time.

The prosecution will argue that the killing was to silence rumours of an off-screen affair between the actors.

The attack happened on the night after Daniella, who played a brazen middle-class beauty, and Senhor Padua filmed an episode ending their screen romance.

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Go wild or stay sober?

Photographs by
CHRIS MOORE
ANDREW THOMAS

PARIS

Couturiers are in a quandary. **Iain R. Webb** reveals how they resolve it in the spring collections

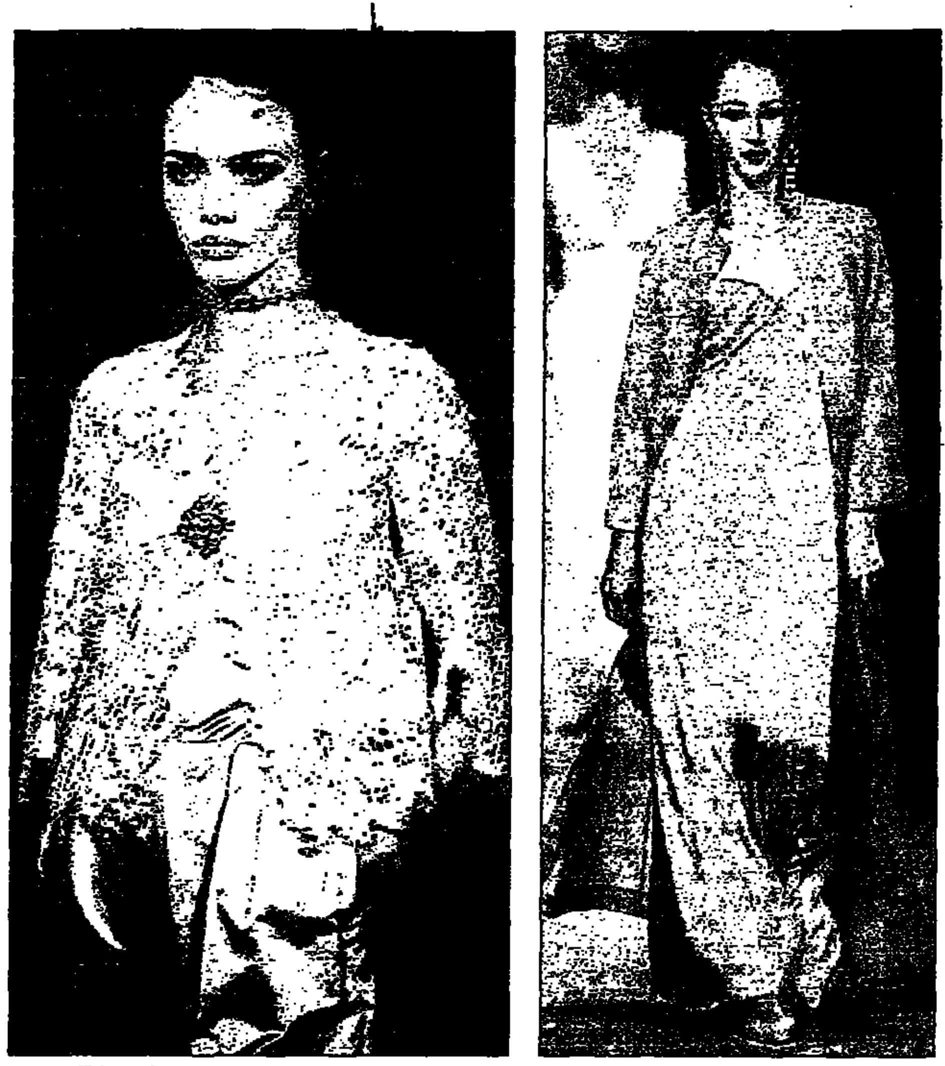
If the extreme messages coming from the spring-summer 1997 ready-to-wear collections weren't confusing enough this season — slip on a pretty chiffon dress and look delicate, or alternatively wear skin-tight trousers, a sexy boob tube with a pair of spike heels and look hard as nails (painted black, naturally) — then try making sense of the haute couture collections that previewed in Paris this week.

Haute couture is supposedly a dying art, yet the houses of Chanel, Lacroix and Balmain boast booming sales. Meanwhile, Givenchy and Dior have opted for the attention-seeking antics of Messrs Alexander McQueen and John Galliano as designers-in-chief respectively. The two British *enfants terribles* may well garner headlines, but will their provocative views of fashion suit the well-to-do women who are looking for a smart little two-piece for a mere £10,000, or something more extravagant, like the beaded Chinese coat-dress from Chanel which, last season, sold for more than £100,000?

What a dilemma! Should the designers simply create clothes tailor-made for their clients' needs and desires and run the risk of being described as *boring* and *dull*, or should they aim for front-page coverage by pandering to the press, only to find themselves accused of *theatricality* and *full-blown fantasy*?

McQueen was in such a quandary with his first collection for Givenchy and the resulting show fell somewhere between the two. His theme was classical mythology and he dressed his show accordingly — blonde muscle-bound cherubs, Icarus (a barely disguised Marcus Schenkenberg), languishing high above the audience, Pegasus (thankfully only on the soundtrack) and everything (excepting one silver-snake coat and one in black) cut in white and gold. Wearing drapey toga dresses encased in strict leather corsets, the models with their fright hairdos, gilded faces and the occasional Minotaur horn looked not unlike extras from "Planet Olympia" in an early episode of *Star Trek*. Far from shocking with his cutting-edge vision, he displayed his razor-sharp tailoring skills in a collection that wouldn't scare a winged horse.

However, among the more obvious looks were exquisite McQueen moments: a plain white double-breasted trouser suit that revealed a cutaway back filled with a phoenix of golden lace; an ultra-slim dress with a coiled halter neck and a tarnished gold satin dress twisted at the waist.



CHANEL: (left) rough lace jackets. **YVES SAINT LAURENT:** unpretentious Parisian elegance

JEAN PAUL GAULTIER: witty, sparkling beadwork

With all the hype surrounding Galliano's first show for Dior, and what with it being exactly 50 years since M Dior himself startled the fashion world with his own New Look, it was never going to be an easy ride for the young Brit. Yet with a cool head and a sure hand he conjured up a collection from the exotic (chinoiserie in chartreuse and ebony satin, or an evening gown made from a Spanish shawl) to the sophisticated (waspy Prince of Wales suits and curvy jackets in white leather cutwork).

Overblown ballgown skirts and Boldini-style chiffon and lace evening gowns were charming, but aside from a playful steal from the Masai tribesman (brightly coloured beadwork) the collection lacked any sign of Galliano, the Urban Spaceman. He needs to get out more.

Fashion journalist of the year

IAIN R. WEBB

CHRISTIAN LACROIX: outfit ten provides a fine fashion moment for haute couture

The expert couturier knows the exact measure of his or her customer and so the collection by Jean Paul Gaultier (who showed his first-ever couture collection this season) was full of fashion "jokes" — a driving-glove that becomes a jacket; spangly tulle dresses that roll up and fit into a handbag; and bejewelled denim. There were great stretch tuxedos, a heavily beaded pinstripe suit, and lots of kimono jackets.

The established names appear, quite sensibly, to have ignored the new boys on the boulevard and concentrated on making great clothes for their clients. Ungaro showed a fine-tuned collection, still clashing colour, pattern and fabric but with a softer touch. Best of all were plain day coats worn over colourful floral and lace slip dresses.

There were a few little numbers in the show of Christian Lacroix, which provided some truly fine moments, specifically outfit ten — a roughly woven jacket in flame red, with salmon and black T-shirt and Indian pink and gold skirt; outfit 19 — a paisley satin organza coat worn over a curry-coloured lamé two-piece; and outfit 20 — a fuchsia-red and gold lace T-shirt with matching heavy oriental silk skirt. These were Lacroix at his most triumphant and forward-thinking but, for the most part, he chose to revisit past glories.

Valentino, Versace and Oscar de la Renta for Balmain offered some of the prettiest clothes of the week. The Orient provided inspiration for both Valentino and Balmain, while Versace looked to Spanish Harlem via *West Side Story*. Ruffles, layers of georgette and bouquets of flowers were familiar to all three. Frothy chiffon dresses appeared on the catwalks of each. Valentino continued to thrill with his ability to fuse the most fragile-looking fabrics while Versace offered beautifully draped, unembellished jersey suits with asymmetric outlines. De la Renta, who gets the prize for best bride of the week for his pretty-in-sugar-pink creation, also offered some of the sexiest looks in black lace.

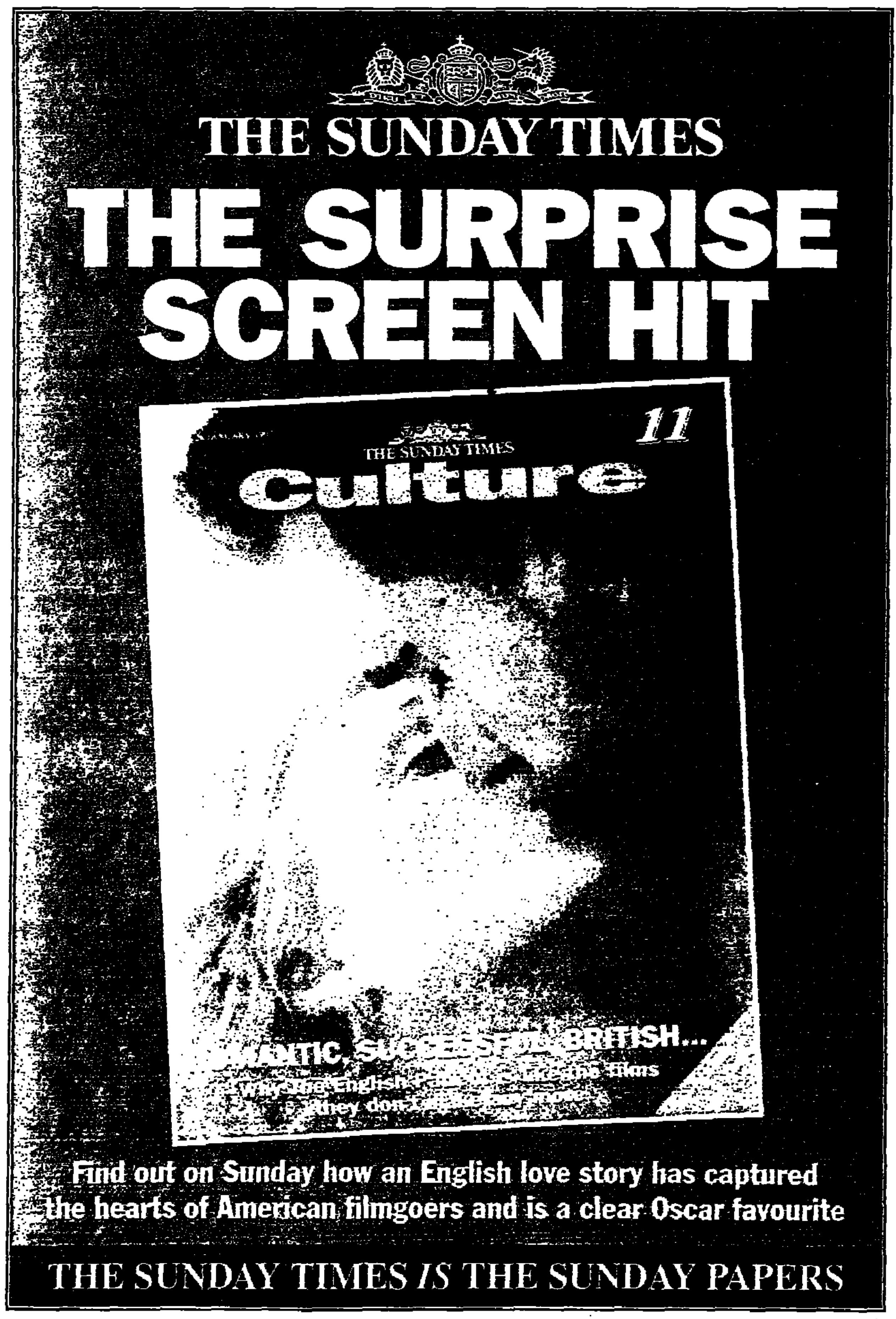
There were no better shows than those of Yves Saint Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld, for Chanel. Both understand that the real pleasure of haute couture is the wearing of it (ask any woman who has). Neither courted the press with high jinks.

The Chanel look is all about pared-down chic with closely cut wool jackets matched with wide, flapping trousers or soft, see-through skirts. Scallop-edged dresses were panelled to hug the figure, while loose-woven tweedy pyjama suits and rough lace jackets were surely a witty double-take on the Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto's parody of the Chanel look.

It seems nothing stops Saint Laurent. His show was impeccable, from the tailored menswear-style suits to the frothy feathers and lace. This season the designer really scored after dark — draped pleated chiffon and colourful beadwork were special, but nothing could quite match the unpretentious elegance of his long, spare column dresses, sometimes worn with equally long opera coats in navy, white, ice-blue, ultramarine and pink. Nothing could be simpler.

● *Iain R. Webb is fashion director of* Elle *magazine.*

GIANNI VERSACE: pretty and frilly candybox florals



THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SURPRISE SCREEN HIT

Find out on Sunday how an English love story has captured the hearts of American filmgoers and is a clear Oscar favourite

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A case of more clout than pout

Other sex kittens have come and gone, but in Claudia Cardinale's case the cat has grown into a tigress

What does one expect of a former sex kitten? Big hair, collagen lips, a famous *poitrine*? I walked the length of the Dorchester Hotel before discerning Claudia Cardinale, a slight, dark figure in small Ray-Ban specs, encased from head to foot in black Armani. She wears no other designer. Giorgio's understated, classic simplicity is perfect for a woman approaching 58. "Sometimes in Paris I am not recognised until they hear my voice — or see the smile." The voice, as husky as Lauren Bacall's, is aided by matchstick-sized Modern Filter Ultra Lights. The smile dazzles.

"And to think when I started they thought my voice was so awful they dubbed me!" *Incroyable*. "Fellini was the first director to let me speak in my own voice."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

They used to call her the Italian Bardot: CC as in BB. But CC did not pout, or disrobe on screen. And today, while BB defends animals and looks raddled, CC goes on making films. You can see her next Saturday on BBC2 in *Nostromo*. Conrad's famously unfilmable novel has been filmed in a multinational production by Fernando Ghia, with excellent performances from Albert Finney, Colin Firth, Serena Scott Thomas — and Miss Cardinale as the innkeeper Teresa Viola: "A very small part. I am only crossing the camera. I die very soon."

Her sudden rise to stardom was like a movie plot. The Cardinales are Sicilian, but her great-grandfather sailed over the Med to Tunisia to build boats. Claudia grew up in Carthage and Tunis; her mother language was French. "That's why I feel more French than Italian. I combine three cultures." She still has a passion for the North African desert, the people ("they are so smiling") and the blue light of Sidi Bou Said.

What whisked her out of the blue was winning the Most Beautiful Girl in Tunis contest in 1957. The prize was a trip to the Venice Festival. Soon Italy's finest directors were queueing up for her: she was in Pasolini's *Il Bell'Antonio*, Visconti's *Rocco and His Brothers* and *The Leopard*. Even today, people think of her as Angelica, the girl who danced with Burt Lancaster. She was Claudia in Fellini's *8½*. Alberto Moravia wrote about her as "the next goddess of love". Visconti saw further: "Claudia is like a cat lying on a sofa that makes you stroke it. But this cat can change into a tigress."

The cat had a secret. Cardinale's memoirs (*Moi Claudia, Toi Claudia*), not published here, reveal that when she went to Venice, she was already pregnant — the result of rape by a Frenchman she hardly knew. It was "an abyss, a nightmare". When she told him she was pregnant, he took her to a "mammana", an abortionist; but she was determined to have the baby.

She made her first three movies with an increasing waistline. She smiled for the camera, did what she was told, and wanted to die. She had signed a contract with the producer Franco Cristaldi, who became her lover. He made her pretend that her baby was her little brother or her career would be ruined. She did not tell her son, Patrick, until he was six. "Curiously, he did not seem surprised. As if he had always known." And she did not go public until 1967, when a newspaper threatened to tell the story. She says that keeping her secret was like a death in the soul, a stone in her heart. These were her frozen years; she felt caged. She was incommunicative and introverted; her outlet was the camera. "The cinema acted for me like an analyst."

She talked through the book with a journalist friend. "There comes a time to confront your past life. I wanted to tell women about something that happens more often than you think. It is dedicated to my son and daughter, who gave me the strength to fight and work for everything and to build my life."

She and Cristaldi were together for 17 years. In 1975 she met Pasquale Squitieri — writer, director, senator of the Republic in Berlusconi's administration — and felt reborn.

"He is my companion for 20 years, the father of Claudia. He lives in Rome and I live in Paris and I think this is the key to a successful relationship. Living together, everything becomes a habit. When you live in two places, it's always nice to see each other. Pasquale is an intellectual: I like that."

Her son Patrick Cristaldi, now 37, lives in New York. She says he is "introverted, solitary, anti-authority". He has been an interior designer, a jeweller, a restaurateur; now he is working in wood. "We have quite a good relationship. But it's been difficult of course. I was too young. That's why, 20 years later, I wanted to have another baby, at 40 — a marvellous experience. Your life is organised, you have time to dedicate, and it's your choice."

By coincidence, her daughter Claudia was born two months before Patrick's daughter Lucille. Her daughter and granddaughter are both 17 and the best of friends.

Claudia is at the Sorbonne. Mother and daughter live with a cat named Glamour in the Marais, overlooking the Seine, trees, *bateaux-mouches* and the Ile St Louis. Watching *Hollywood Lovers*, seeing what a freak show Hollywood is — everyone droning venally on about alimony — I compare the civilised European cinema fraternity.

Miss Cardinale sympathises when American stars (such as Madonna, who impressed her by knowing everything about European films) come to Paris surrounded by bodyguards, while Claudia can walk the boulevards and talk to people. "I like it; I am an actress."

BB has sent CC a copy of her own bestselling memoirs. "It's a bit polemical, heavy. She says some not very nice things about immigration, and wishing her son had not been born," Claudia says. "But the book is a great success." When they filmed together in *Les Pétroleuses*, press cameras waited every day for a terrible fight; but the two got on famously.

"My life is very simple, active. I walk a lot, I do my gymnastics. As a girl, I was a champion at basketball, volleyball, a tomboy, '*un casse-cou*'. I wanted to be an explorer. Now I get to travel, for films, to Russia, Australia, Ireland. I made *Fitzcarraldo* in Peru. I don't spend hours in beauty parlours, I eat very simple, no cream, milk, or butter: pasta, Chinese food, couscous. I prefer a good glass of red wine to champagne."

Nostromo was shot in the same location as Ghia's *The Mission*, in the tropical heat of Cartagena, Colombia. "Imagine how complicated: a cast and crew from all over the world, and everything had to be built. Houses, harbour, boats, the silver mine — *do you know I had never noticed until Fernando said that 'silver' and 'money' in French are the same word?* And the humidity! You are permanently wet."

She has completed four films since — nearly 100 films in 30 years. She loves the magic of the silver screen in a dark room. The only melancholy thing is going to funerals. Her beloved Mastroianni's. Fellini's. "The last time I saw Blake Edwards," she says sadly, "we realised we were the only two left from *The Pink Panther*. Well, life is like this."

PETER KREDENSER

RONALD GRANT

Enduring appeal: Claudia reflects on her career, which includes *The Professionals* with Burt Lancaster (above right) and John Wayne in *The Magnificent Showman*

Joining the resistance in the Big Apple

As murder and mugging rates fall and victims turn mean, street crime in New York has become unfashionable, says **Quentin Letts**

NEW YORK'S cops are walking around the neighbourhoods with a distinct swagger this month, greatly pleased with themselves. You might think that they had just cracked a Poirot-esque murder riddle, or nailed a Mafia mobster.

Not quite. But the reason for their self-congratulation is, for this bubbling hotpot of a city, not so very much less remarkable. There were, you see, only 983 murders in New York City in 1996. It is the first year since 1968 that the murder count fell below four figures. Rough old Noo Yawk, the most fearsome alley invented by man, is now 144th in the US city violence league. Can it really be true?

Five years ago, street violence was one of the staples of New York conversation. At supper in the city's many restaurants, friends would exchange mugging anecdotes in the way that Prussian undergraduates compared duelling scars. It is a measure of the success of the New York authorities that a mugging yarn is rarely to be heard these days. Street crime is suddenly unfashionable.

When you do come across a friend who has been attacked, the stories seem to feature a high level of resistance. The police say that to oppose an attacker is foolhardy, but the results can be comical, and the spirit of bloody-minded resistance appears to be spreading.

Etne, a South American acquaintance, was stopped by a callow youth in Greenwich Village and asked to hand over his wallet. Etne had had the benefit of a couple of beakers of two-star tequila not long before the incident occurred, so rather than hand over his money he thought to himself "Hell, no!" and punched the mugger firmly on the nose. The man blinked. Etne duly gave him a second bop on the nose, then a third. The mugger turned and fled, complaining noisily about his treatment and asking "Hey, man, are you crazy or somethin'?"

A similar tale comes from Doug Dechert, an uptown boulevardier. He was at home one recent night when there was a knock at his door. Doug, by nature an hospitable man, admitted a scrawny specimen who, on crossing the threshold, had the temerity to try to demand Doug's valuables. He received more than he bargained for when Doug seized hold of a ceremonial sword off his drawing room wall and chased the assailant from the apartment block.

Nick Passmore, a 46-year-old British-born photographer, was walking down a residential street on the Upper West Side one day when a youth stopped him and announced that he was holding a concealed gun. "Dunno why," recalls Passmore, "but something just told me that he was bluffing. I simply brushed past him." Result: one distinctly disenchanted would-be mugger, who promptly tried his luck on a woman in the street, only to be told to eff off by her, too. Passmore, by the way, was right: he did not have a gun.

How different all this is from the start of the decade, when the Democrats were running the city and before the introduction of the "zero tolerance" policing methods of the current (Republican) Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, whose no-nonsense creed has so impressed Tony Blair. To the ill-concealed irritation of the Left, the Giuliani tough approach has worked. His philosophy was that if you stamp hard on petty crime, the message will seep through to the more serious criminal that society has had enough. The impressive drop in murders followed a similar drop in muggings. In 1995 there were 35,353 muggings in New York. In 1996 the number was down to 30,402. Rarely, nowadays, do you the see members of the Guardian Angels citizen protection force on the streets. There is simply less call for them.

Ralph Gardner Jr, a writer who used to work in the police press office, cautions against over optimism. "I still look over my shoulder when I'm walking in the dark," he says, rightly pointing out that the latest crime figures, while an improvement, are by no means exemplary. "Sure," says Gardner, "things are better, but the inimitable flavour of New York has not vanished entirely." Indeed. Another friend, Richard Pohle, was in his bank this week waiting to cash a cheque when a gang of thugs entered and announced a hold-up. "There wasn't much sign of resistance there," he laughs. "Those of us who were near the door made an immediate lunge for the exit and legged it off down the street. The bank security guard who should have been saving the day was the first guy out the door!"

It is still a good idea to be alert when walking around New York at night and women are probably well advised to take taxis if they need to travel a few blocks. Zoe McKay, a 27-year-old producer who was relieved of her handbag by a mugger on the New York subway last year, confesses that if she finds herself alone in a subway station these days, she leaves at once.

Even so, at the time of her mugging she showed the modern spirit and had a tug-of-war with the mugger over her bag (which contained no money). "It was against all the rules to resist, I know," she says, "but the guy was well dressed and I just got mad. What really depressed me was that he was a young black kid, just as the cliché goes. I don't like stereotypes, so I found that really much more depressing than the fact that I had been mugged." A *very* New York comment, that.

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A word in your ear, Mr Clarke

Stop waiting and start seeing, says Tim Congdon

Dear Ken,

I am writing to you about Europe. But may I say at the start that in my opinion you have on the whole done a good job of managing the economy? Your period as Chancellor has seen the lowest inflation since the 1950s, as well as a substantial fall in unemployment.

If economic and monetary union were easy to implement and could be reconciled with Britain's continued existence as an independent nation, I would favour it. Unhappily, though, the difficulties are immense, not least because of different languages, scripts and so on. The total cost is clearly of the order of hundreds of billions of dollars. (I use "dollars" *because — unlike* ecus — they are familiar, and — unlike euros — they exist.) You might reply that the costs could be justified as a one-off investment to secure the convenience of a single currency for future generations. But are the proposals for transition sensible?

May I suggest that you ask your officials to find out how long it takes to alter automated teller machines, shop tills, and banks' and retailers' software systems? Then compare this with the timetable for introducing the euro. Companies will be reluctant to buy new machines and employ programmers before mid-1998 because they don't know which countries will qualify, or whether the project will go ahead at all. Six months is much too short a period to carry out all the changes.

On an even more banal level, ask your finance ministry counterparts in Europe whether the costs of the massive necessary publicity campaigns are to be covered by the European Commission or by member governments, and inquire what provisions have been made. So far the amounts of money being spent are derisory.

Of course, these are points for humble engineers and admen rather than great statesmen, but I am confident you will not be satisfied by the answers to such questions. With 1999 less than two years away, Europe's governments *and peoples are not serious* about the euro. Any rational and unbiased observer would say postponement is essential if the project is not to degenerate into farce.

But the crucial condition is the second one, the condition that the introduction of the new currency be compatible with the continued existence of Britain as an independent *nation. Before Christmas you* said in the Commons that "there is no Conservative politician who is a federalist", which presumably means that you are opposed to a European superstate.

You went on to say that talk about the creation of a superstate "arouses public fears and deprives the public of sensible information". I *have to object. Leading* German politicians, including Helmut Kohl, have said on many occasions that monetary union is a prelude to political union. And there is no previous example of significant sovereign nations sharing a single currency. Monetary union has always involved political union.

The central reason why monetary union must result in political union is simple. The management of a nation's currency is connected with the management of its public debt, and the management of public debt is inseparable from fiscal policy. Fiscal policy — the control of public expenditure and taxation — is the *cherished prerogative of all* national parliaments. It follows that monetary policy can be centralised only if fiscal policy is also centralised, and that is the end of national sovereignty.

Recent differences between Germany and France over fiscal sovereignty are minor compared with the implications of Germany's almost certain *resistance to Italian participation.* Despite harsh and very unpopular fiscal restraint in the past two years, the Italians have failed to reduce the ratio of public debt to national income. It is still above 120 per cent, more than twice the permitted rate.

In Germany as in Britain, most of the public are opposed to the single currency. The political élite, which is almost entirely in favour, knows that it can push the project through only if Italy is excluded. But, if Italy is excluded, Spain, Portugal and Greece must be excluded too. These countries might be provoked into forming a blocking minority at the inter-governmental conference in 1998, which in theory could stop the whole project.

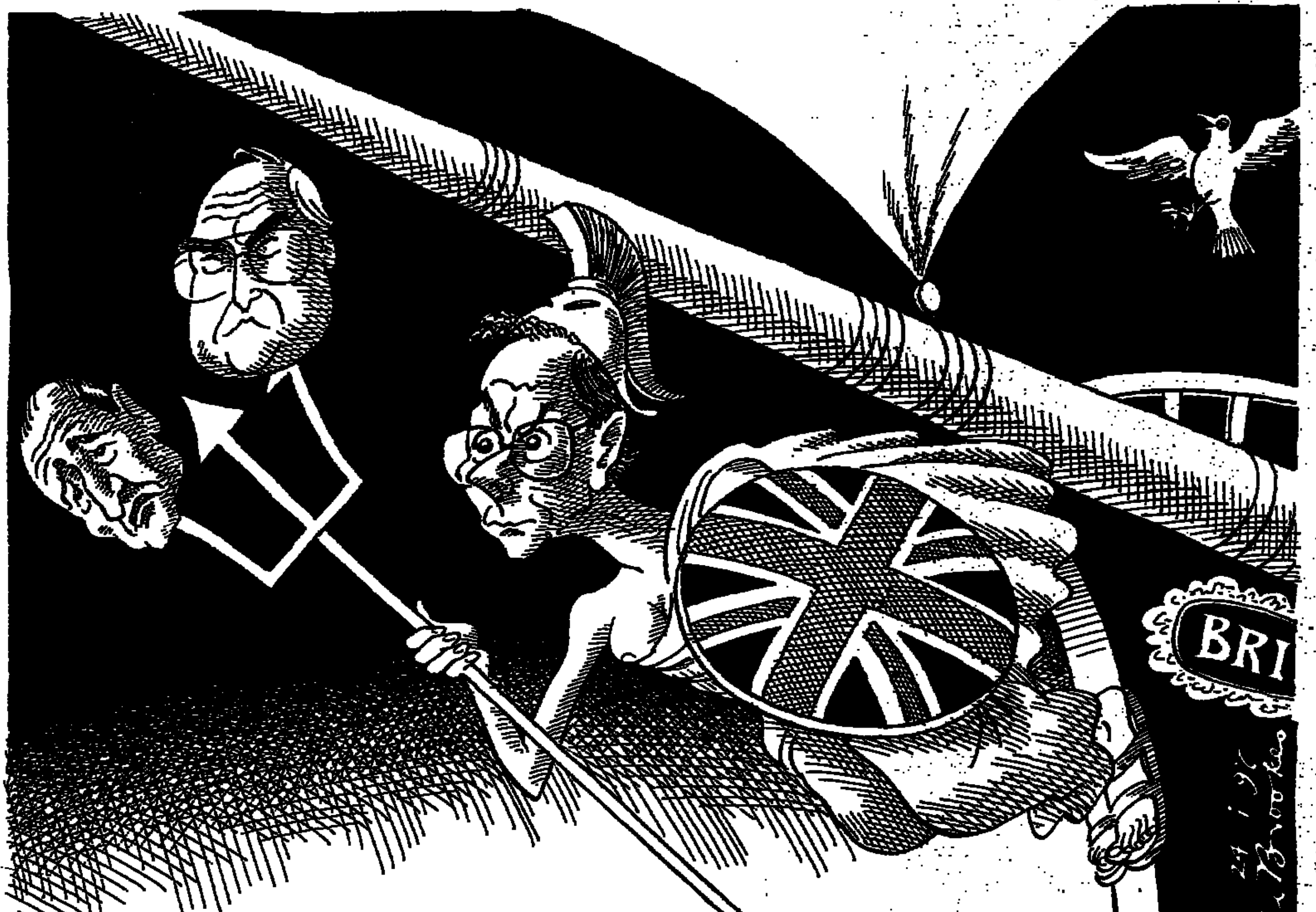
The cause of European integration is about to suffer its worst setback since the establishment of the Common Market in 1957. The economic and monetary union will fail. Ever since it was mooted in the late 1980s the key nations have been in a daydream. As the deadline approaches, they must wake up.

If you are a Europhile and believe in increased European integration (as the newspapers say), your duty is twofold. First, you must warn your friends in Europe to pull back before it is too late. Our semi-detached position will prove justified, but we must not crow. We don't want the collapse of monetary union to lead to financial instability in our neighbours. Financial instability followed by political instability had calamitous results for Europe in the 1920s and 1930s.

Secondly, you and Mr Major must abandon the wait-and-see policy, for the good of the nation as well as for electoral advantage. Quite frankly, Britain's banks and retailers would have trouble getting prepared by 2002 (let alone 1999), even if we took an irrevocable commitment to go ahead now. But at a deeper level you and other finance ministers are not truly willing to hand over your fiscal powers to an as-yet unnamed central body in Brussels. This makes it certain that the single currency project will disintegrate. Nothing can be lost, and much can be gained, by immediately excluding Britain from any involvement in economic and monetary union for the lifetime of the next Parliament.

Yours, Tim.

The author is a member of the Treasury panel of independent forecasters.



DESIGN FOR A NEW BRITANNIA

All-party witch-hunt

The proposed paedophile register demeans us all and will protect no one

Matthew Parris

There are times when, struggling against the swell of public alarm, one begins to doubt one's own sanity. Is it really the rest of the world that is mad? This is how it must have felt to be a sceptic in Salem, Massachusetts, at the time of the witches.

Bernard Levin expressed that sense of exasperation in the 1960s, during a wave of press and public anxiety about decadence in high places. Lord Denning was hearing a government inquiry into such mysteries as the identity of the "headless man" in a Polaroid photograph of the lower half of a socialist partygoer, aroused by the attentions of the then Duchess of Argyll. One minister was persuaded by Lord Denning to submit his penis for examination in Harley Street. "Even in years so copiously provided with material on which madness could feel fat," wrote Levin, this was "something so extraordinary, and in many ways so significant, that it deserves examination as detailed as that which the Minister underwent."

How, then, may we spot these madnesses early? Look out for the existence of an early telltale: all-party support.

And so to the Government's proposals for a "paedophile register", *contained in the Home Secretary's Sex* Offenders Bill, a slim tract of which the second Commons reading comes on Monday. Such is the offender-bashing imperative now gripping Britain that Michael Howard announced it to cheers at the Tory conference, his proposals have encountered quibbles but almost no principled opposition from any quarter. Someone has to blast this idiocy out of the water.

The plan is to force convicted or cautioned sexual offenders to register their addresses with the police, whenever and wherever they move, for a period varying between five years and the rest of their lives. The declared aim is to allow the police to keep an up-to-date register of the whereabouts of sex offenders. It will be available for consultation by prospective employers in cases where a job involves (for instance) contact *with children. The Bill looks set to* secure a speedy passage through the Commons, virtually unopposed.

There are concerns about details. As the declared aim is the protection of children, it appears strange that the crime of gross indecency — a consensual offence involving homosexuals over the age of consent and caught together in public places — should be included among the sex offences subject to registration. The Stonewall Group is taking this up. It seems odd that an offence of which the police take so light a view as merely to caution the culprit nevertheless puts him on the list.

But these are secondary concerns. Few voices — and certainly not the Opposition's — have been raised to confront the central principle: that a great swathe of offenders who have served their sentences and returned — disgraced at the workplace, disgraced with landlords, disgraced among their families and their friends, and almost certainly unemployed — to try to begin their lives again, should now be bound to the 20th-century equivalent of the leper's bell. This is primitive nonsense. Will nobody say so?

Look first at an idea put to Mr Howard which David Maclean, his Minister of State, says *is for consideration. The police might* be authorised — American-style — to notify local residents when a sex offender moves into the neighbourhood. One is left gasping in disbelief. Has Maclean read what happened recently to a man on the Garretts Green Estate in Birmingham when a housing officer allegedly tipped off neighbours that he had a conviction for sexual assault? The officer was suspended, and the Liberal Demo*crat councillor who supported him* became a local hero. A lynch-mob atmosphere blew up. The man and his mother were forced to move. Where, Mr Howard? Where are they supposed to go?

Look at what happens to sex offenders in prison at the hands of other prisoners. The instinct to stigmatise and hurt such people runs deep. Is it to be whipped up beyond the prison gates too?

Labelling people is always hateful. Judged even against the crude horror of the gas chamber, there was something uniquely nasty about forcing Jews and homosexuals to display conspicuously and at all times the badges they were forced to sew onto their clothing. It is chilling to force a man to drag around with him an advertisement for something that others hate and he cannot change.

Apologists for the Home Secretary will object that although sex offenders are victims, they create victims of their own. Are these not our first concern? There is a clear answer to this. If we judge a person so dangerous that his neighbours must be warned about him, he should not be allowed back into the community. Telling neighbours hardly adds to their safety, but it does add to their anxiety, brand the individual, and breed horrific problems of its own.

The Bill places no limits on the use the police may make of the register, though the Home Secretary may.

But let us assume the Government recoils from Maclean's journey back into the Middle Ages. We are still left with the idea of local registration with the police. What of this?

I am *mystified* as to its purpose. There is no practical possibility that *police officers could in any meaning*ful sense "keep an eye" on all these people. These are some of the most private of crimes, rarely committed in the street. A better case could be made for letting the local constabulary know when a former mugger, door-to-door conman, drink-driver, drug-dealer or inflicter of grievous bodily harm moves into their area: here the information might just prove useful in the panda car or on the beat.

And an untruth is being put about by enthusiasts for the Bill, which ought to be nailed. It has been suggested that sexual offenders are particularly prone to reoffend. This is not the case. Here are some Home Office figures (for England and Wales) for prisoners reconvicted within two years of discharge from prison during 1992. They are expressed as *percentages of the total number* discharged in each category. All offences, 51%; burglary, 70%; theft and handling, 62%; robbery, 45%; violence against the person, 41%; drugs offences, 26%; fraud and forgery, 25%; sexual offences, 16%. No category of offender has a lower percentage of reoffenders than that covering sexual offences. You can nudge the figures up by speculating that sexual offenders are uniquely unlikely to be caught, or by excluding elderly offenders, but no minister can find honest support for the assertion that sex offenders are less likely than others to mend their ways.

What, then, of Mr Howard's declared aim of helping employers to check up on jobseekers — for instance, when jobs involve work with children?

He does not need this Bill for that purpose. The register will be centrally held and compiled (as it already can be) from court records. This measure can only usefully add the individual's latest address, and this depends upon the offender's word. No less, or more, reliable as a double-check would be requiring a signed assurance that the applicant has no relevant convictions. A one-clause Bill could make a fraudulent assurance to that effect a criminal offence.

No, look closely at the reasoning behind the Sex Offenders Bill and it falls apart. In theory we are all on the voters' roll at our current addresses already. In theory and in practice, details of convictions are already recorded against all offenders' names, and held centrally. But Mr Howard finds an urgent need for an up-to-the-minute list of the whereabouts of all serious sex offenders — and nobody else.

Why? Reams of notepaper and a jumble of faxes have surrounded me all week, but nothing answered that question. Then all at once in the small hours of Thursday morning, the answer came. There is no reason for this Bill. No reason at all. It is simply a piece of electioneering.

It does nothing, achieves nothing, *helps nobody, protects nobody.* It demeans and discourages. For some it will render just a little more forlorn the hope that can redeem any human being: the hope that we might reinvent ourselves and start afresh.

But it raises a saloon-bar cheer. And in order for Michael Howard — and Jack Straw — to raise a cheer before a general election, the principle is to be established that there shall be categories of free citizen against *whom no process of law is* outstanding but who — in some cases for the rest of their lives — must trudge into a local police station whenever they move to a new address, and tell a constable, upon whose discretion they know they cannot rely, that they are former sex-offenders, come to live in the area.

It is shameful. It will have all-party support.

Philip Howard

■ Cadet corps has many pleasures, all of them incidental

James Thomson, the author of *Rule Britannia*, may not have had the cadet corps on his mind when he wrote: "Delightful task! / To rear the tender thought, / To teach the young idea how to shoot." But sensitive children need not be alarmed by the Government's batty electioneering proposal to give them all *the chance to join the military* cadets. A cadet corps has room in it for all shapes and conditions of boys. And no doubt today girls also — a bonus. The duties are as light or heavy as the cadet chooses to make them. And the pleasures are great.

1. Communally stamped, the parade-ground can be a pleasure. Just as all children should be taught to dance in order to *co-ordinate their coltish and fillyish* bodies, the simultaneous smash of 1,000 feet on the ground, the painful crack of hands on rifles is a lesson in the satisfactions of teamwork. (We used to put pebbles in our magazines to make the cracks louder.) The Lord Mayor's Show and Essex-girl cheerleaders parade the pleasure the young still take in synchronised movement.

2. Even the uncoordinated, whose left hands automatically shoot forward in time with their left feet, become endearing platoon Pinocchios. And the ditherer, who cannot time his "Abeeoooout . . . TURRRN" to coincide with left feet hitting the ground gives the sergeant the opportunity to scream the old joke: "Say *something* to them, laddy, even if it's only goodbye."

3. The corps teaches the useful lesson that adult rage can be simulated. There is profit in learning at a tender age that such murderous abuse as "I'll have your bleeding guts for garters, you Eff-Pig" and "I'll have you off the parade ground so fast that your feet won't even touch the ground" are sometimes self-parodic.

4. Drill introduces you to rich English occupational dialects, such as pronouncing "Arms" as "Hipes".

5. Field days are days off lessons in the peaceful countryside, with packed lunches and spirals of blue smoke rising from the bracken. Cadets learn teamwork by taking it in turns to keep *cave* for the umpires. And resourceful, hungry or mischie*vous boys once supplemented* their evening rations by pushing pencils down the muzzles of their blank-loaded .303s to harpoon the Queen's tame pheasants in Windsor Great Park.

6. Corps teaches you to take a pride in appearance. In particular you learn that it is a grave moral offence not to clean the Blanco off the inside of the brass buckles of your belt and gaiters. And that anybody who appears in public without a collar pin is improperly dressed.

7. You learn to move decisively. For example, by taking emergency actions to the Bren gun. Or when a cadet from Bromsgrove at camp floated a burning fireship of *The Times* down the communal outdoor "grab-or-go-under" lavatory after breakfast. This made impossibly dignified senior boys take sitting high jumps in rapid succession, far more briskly than a Bren gun or Her Majesty's mortally lazy pheasants.

8. You learn self-control. For example, our corps lined the route inside Windsor Castle for George VI's funeral. We had bulled our boots with spit and spoons red-heated over candles for weeks. The honour and *solemnity of the* occasion had been drilled into us. So as the hearse approached, we stood on our arms reversed — a manoeuvre involving seven separate movements, and 600 cadets counting ten silently but in unison. Small boys barely 4ft high are likely to do themselves an injury at this drill. And then a horse of the escort of Household Cavalry deposited the coarsest comment available to it splat over my toecaps. But not a flicker disturbed the solemn ranks bowed over our reversed rifles. Well, hardly a flicker.

9. Drill is usually justified for preparing its students to obey orders instantly and without question in the hurly-burly of battle. But it can also be treated as a simple but satisfying exercise in mass movement, like *Top of the Pops*. And it can also be commended for teaching the old sergeant's axiom that "Bullshit Baffles Brains". That is, if you do something noisily and confidently enough, with enough bang and glitter, you may bluff your way past the inspecting officers who lie in wait in later life.

10. The cadet corps teaches *you to change your* clothes fast, darn your socks, and to keep two razors — one for inspection and the other for use.

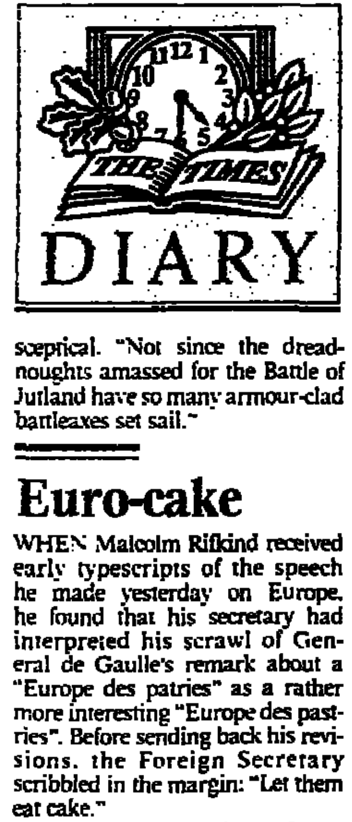
Proops scoops

EXPECT heaving bosoms and many a tear on Monday at the memorial service for Marje Proops, the agony aunt who for a quarter of a century eclipsed all others with her column in the *Daily Mirror*.

Fleet Street is gathering itself for the most formidable collection of tabloid therapists ever seen. Organisers have been talking privately of the fight between agony aunts for the prime role in the service, now allocated to Anne Robinson, who will read one of Miss Proops's columns. The aunts *vigorously deny suggestions of* competition.

"We're not war correspondents you know, all competing for scoops," insists Claire Rayner, who isn't speaking at the service. "We're all in it for the same reason — to help people." Eve Pollard, who has taken over Marje's column on the *Sunday Mirror*, says she would be "amazed" if there were any jealousy. "People do really think she was one of the great names," she adds.

David Seymour, the Mirror Group's political editor, who helped to organise the event, says: "The main problem was that she had such a damn long life that there were hundreds of people who wanted to speak." But one bar-room commentator, remarking on the probable presence under one roof of Anne Robinson, Eve Pollard, Miriam Stoppard, Felicity Green and Claire Rayner, was sceptical. "Not since the dreadnoughts amassed for the Battle of Jutland have so many armour-clad battleaxes set sail."



"Conscientious objectors need notes from their mothers"

THE TIMES DIARY

Euro-cake

WHEN Malcolm Rifkind received early typescripts of the speech he made yesterday on Europe, he found that his secretary had interpreted his scrawl of General de Gaulle's remark about a "Europe des patries" as a rather more interesting "Europe des pastries". Before sending back his revisions, the Foreign Secretary scribbled in the margin: "Let them eat cake."

The episode reminds one Westminster veteran of a report once sent to the Foreign Office by our Ambassador in Switzerland, titled "A Swiss role for Europe". The document passed all the way up to the then minister, Roy Hattersley, before anyone saw the joke.

● *Filming in Mexico on* The Mask of Zorro *has been delayed, holding up the likes of Sir Anthony Hopkins and Antonio Banderas. All the swords from America have been impounded by Mexican Customs.*

Real stew

JUST DAYS after the dismissal of Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, another pillar of *The Sunday Telegraph* has been toppled.

Josceline Dimbleby, the cookery editor and estranged wife of David, has received a letter from the editor of the *Telegraph's* magazine informing her that she is no longer required. She has worked there happily for 15 years.

Mrs Dimbleby sounded angry yesterday. "I've been there 15 years, and this new magazine editor has been there just one," she said. "It's all such a muddle I'm still trying to find out what has happened."

She added that she had not heard a word from the paper's Editor, Dominic Lawson. Calls to his office went unheeded yesterday — he was rubbing suncream into his body in the Caribbean.

Unholy alliance: the duchess and the Pope share a costumier

Vestments

WORRYING NEWS for Roman Catholics: the Duchess of York and the Pope share a fashion designer. Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, who created the multicoloured plastic coat of many horrors worn by the duchess to the reopening of Paris's Museum of Fashion, is working on some new vestments for His Holiness.

"It is a fabulous project, but I say nothing more," says a spokesman for the House of Castelbajac. The Pope, who is known to wear white Doc Marten boots under his cassock, is planning a visit to Paris this summer following his visit to Rheims last year. The thought of natty plastics in Notre Dame is enough to make a Trappist scream.

P.H.S

هكذا من الأصل

RULING OUT

Labour should now step up to the Tory line

Signs abound that the Conservatives are preparing for an early election. Populist announcements tumble out of the government machine: after the new Royal Yacht *Britannia*, the permanent incarceration of Myra Hindley and the expansion of the cadet force, comes a policy on the single currency that may yet unite the Tory party and win over voters in time for the only poll that matters.

On paper, the single currency position has not changed. Britain still has the option to join in the first wave in January 1999. But all the stress yesterday was on the improbability of that happening. The argument that ministers were using runs as follows. If EMU begins at all (which is not certain), it will almost certainly be on the basis of fudged convergence criteria. Britain will not join if the criteria have been fudged. Ergo, Britain is "highly unlikely" to join.

Ever since John Major ruled out ruling out membership for the lifetime of the next Parliament, this was his clear escape route. Even Kenneth Clarke could be persuaded that it would not be in Britain's interest to join a single currency whose members' convergence was not sustainable. But, the Chancellor had been holding out until yesterday, claiming that it was not possible at this stage to judge whether the criteria would or would not be met.

Mr Clarke has now been overruled, and not before time. The convergence of the member states that want to join the currency has long been as unsustainable as the Chancellor's position. As a figleaf, Mr Clarke can claim that Britain's option to join remains. Yesterday he was determined to emphasise the unlikelihood of EMU going ahead rather than the unlikelihood of Britain being part of it. But it is clear to all that the chances of this country joining the first wave under a Tory government are now infinitesimal.

This was confirmed by the news later in the day that the first Queen's Speech after an election (if the Conservatives won) would contain no legislation relating to the single currency. Given that, by the end of 1998, the Government would have to have legislated to make the Bank of England independent, to reverse Britain's opt-out and to hold a referendum if it had decided to join, this undertaking hardens the position still further.

In political terms, the decision may eventually help Mr Clarke. His party has seen him as the only obstacle to a sensible and unifying policy on EMU. If the Tories had lost the election with their previous version of the "wait and see" position, the Chancellor would have been blamed. This shift is a sign that, at last, he is willing to accept rather than fight against political reality.

It would of course be preferable if the Government expressed principled rather than pragmatic opposition to EMU. But this new position will make it easier for all Conservative candidates to issue roughly similar election addresses. The onus is now on Labour to respond. As *The Times* reported last October, Tony Blair too thinks it unlikely that he would join the first wave. Many voters would like that position made public. Choosing a party to govern the country for five years is a big enough task. Electing a party that might do something irreversible is momentous. Mr Blair now owes it to the electorate to spell out where he stands on the most critical question to face the country in decades.

RIFKIND'S SOAPBOX

A voter-friendly British message for jobless Europe

At first sight, Malcolm Rifkind's judgment that it is time for Britain "to take the debate on Europe to Europe" may seem little short of bizarre. A Government which has spent the past three years insisting that the debate on Europe's future was moving Britain's way must surely have been arguing its case in foreign capitals. Yet his sense of timing is less bizarre than appears; and the words are well chosen because what he means by them is a departure from relying almost entirely on the traditional methods of fighting Britain's corner in corridors and chancelleries.

Yesterday's Cabinet decision on a single currency supplies the vital missing ingredient in a Conservative policy towards the European Union that at long last can be presented as both coherent and solidly in the middle of the national consensus. Thus armed, Mr Rifkind is readying "a new diplomacy", which he hopes will reach out beyond the continental policymaking elites to open up a genuine citizens' debate about the future of the nation state, the loyalty a federal Europe could command and whether ordinary people understand just what their leaders mean by deeper European integration.

Most subversively, because this is a question their own politicians avoid putting, he believes that Britain could encourage people in France, Germany and elsewhere in the EU to ask themselves what they personally stand to gain, and to lose, from plans to accentuate the supranational character of the Union.

As Klaus Kinkel recently discovered when he offered Britain a bit of unsolicited advice at the new year, Mr Rifkind is embarking on territory where even angels must pick their way. Yet his assessment that now is Britain's moment to refresh the European debate makes sense.

To be effective, any message requires a minimum of readiness to listen on the part of the audience, and until recently, a British accent was enough to deprive the best argument of most of its force. But in today's Europe, British pragmatism and Britain's scepticism about Europe's federal destiny no longer inspire the slightly patronising jokes about "isolationism" that they did in the immediate aftermath of Maastricht.

That is because where Britain is currently most obviously isolated is in its successful bucking of the continental rake's progress to massive, seemingly unshiftable, unemployment in France, Italy, Spain and even Germany. Much of this is ascribable to long years of public overspending, coupled with layers of social protection that have frozen labour markets, and a reliance on state corporatism that, as Mr Rifkind suggested to French businessmen last night, has roots in the hard years of postwar reconstruction.

But politically, what matters is that governments have blamed the need to meet the Maastricht criteria for EMU to justify reforms they are compelled to undertake. With youth unemployment at 27 per cent in France, 33 per cent in Italy and 42 per cent in Spain, Maastricht is currently about as popular as is the International Monetary Fund in African kleptocracies. In France, where the schism between public and political elite is in the open, the chief beneficiary of the Government's unpopularity is Jean-Marie Le Pen's ultra-nationalist party. Once the French public grasps that EMU will not mean the end of austerity, there could be a social explosion.

A British Foreign Secretary cannot and should not fan fires. But he can press home the essential British message that accountability within the nation state is the bedrock of democracy, which is ignored at Europe's wider peril. He could win converts, too, to the idea that a "flexible" Europe must genuinely respect the diversity of its members. Without playing John Bull in Europe's china shop, it is worth testing his proposition that Britain's view of Europe is closer to that of ordinary Europeans than their political masters like to believe.

UNSTABLE POLICY

The arts need national popularity more than lottery money

Yesterday the Arts Council of England turned a significant corner. Whichever way its new, woefully named "stabilisation programme" is dressed up, its prime aim is to divert some National Lottery proceeds away from building projects and into the more urgent matter of keeping the country's hard-pressed theatres, orchestras and opera companies in business.

The task is enormous. Britain's regional theatres have run up a combined £8 million deficit. The Royal Opera House and English National Opera are each £3 million in the red. Famous orchestras survive only because their bankers are patient and enjoy Brahms.

The Arts Council is keen to deny that it is using lottery money simply to bail out a bunch of losers. Nevertheless, the stabilisation programme does channel lottery money into tasks that the Arts Council, in earlier days, might reasonably have expected its government grant to cover. The Arts Council has ventured down this path only with caution (just £5 million will be committed to stabilisation next year), suggesting that it is well aware of the political dangers ahead.

Having broken the earlier rule that lottery money should be used only for capital projects, the Arts Council may find itself pressed to raid its lottery coffers more and more for urgently needed funds. It now receives about £250 million each year from the lottery, compared with only £186 million from the Government. The list of worthwhile building projects on which to spend the lottery windfall is not infinite. The pressure for emergency funding would probably increase under a Labour government.

To place our world-class performers entirely at the mercy of a source of revenue as unpredictable as the lottery would be irresponsible and short-sighted. It would send the wrong signals to the world about the social and cultural values considered important by the British Government. But if the Arts Council is to continue to receive a fifth of the lottery's profits it must quickly find good new ways of using the money. As the recent outcry over English National Opera's plan for a new theatre showed, public opinion has turned strongly against the building of yet more culture palaces for the middle classes.

The answer is to launch an all-out campaign to attract new audiences, particularly among the young. British performers, artists and writers are among the best in the world; we are properly proud when they win international prizes. Now they must fight for the most important prize of all, the widespread support of their own compatriots. Fifty years of state subsidy have not, so far, brought that prize within the reach of serious culture. Popularisation, not stabilisation, should be the Arts Council's new watchword.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fear of genetically modified foods

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Iceland Group

Sir, Not being a scientist, technologist, or biochemist makes me eminently qualified to discuss the fashionable issue of genetically modified foods. All the screeds of scientific evidence and the deliberations of food experts lack one essential ingredient — the commonsense view of the normal consumer.

Like most scientific experiments, genetically modifying foods started with the best of intentions. If plants can be made less resistant to disease and herbicide weedkillers can be used more sparingly, this must be good: more food to feed the Third World and a more environmentally friendly approach to farming.

The principle must be applauded, but in practice we are corrupting nature and we have sufficient evidence to show that nature fights back — salmonella, listeria, BSE. The so-called experts allowed dead sheep to be eaten by herbivores — and we were used as human guinea-pigs.

Whilst most of us are still struggling to understand the terminology, the chances are we're already eating genetically modified foods. Tomato paste and some cheeses are currently available in supermarkets; they have generally been claimed to have enhanced flavour qualities at more competitive prices and have been labelled as being "genetically modified". The consumer has hitherto had a clear choice.

We are now faced with a different problem: labelling may no longer be an option, largely because of the creation of a genetically modified soya bean by the chemical multinational Monsanto in America. With the sanction of the US food authorities, this has been mixed with natural soya and put into worldwide distribution, and it will thus become impossible for manufacturers and retailers to know the true source of the soya in their products and to label them accordingly.

Genetically modifed maize is also winging its way over the "pond": same problem, different company — Ciba-Geigy — but potentially more of a threat. Maize has been genetically modified to make it resistant to the European corn-borer pest, but this process may make animals feeding on the maize resistant to antibiotics: a classic case of solving one problem only to create another.

It is totally unacceptable that American companies should dictate to us in this way. We must demand total traceability for all food and clear labelling. Natural and genetically modified foods must, in the future, be separated at source and processed, transported and utilised in food manufacturing accordingly.

Government action is needed on two counts: we must know the source of products and labelling must be mandatory. By genetically modifying foods we are messing with the building blocks of life.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM C. WALKER,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Iceland Group plc,
Second Avenue,
Deeside Industrial Park,
Deeside, Flintshire.
January 17.

Leaving hospital

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, Mr Nigel Harris (letter, January 16) is incorrect that the discharge of patients from hospital is the sole responsibility of a doctor. Quite rightly, the local social services department may veto medical discharges if satisfactory home or community care has not been arranged.

This is a much more common problem than patients being sent out of hospital before they are sufficiently well. At any time, at least 10 per cent of hospital beds are occupied by people who would not need to do so were it not for their lack of social support.

Obviously, this is a major cause of both the hospital bed shortage and the pressure to discharge other patients the moment they appear well enough to go home.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CROSBY (Chairman),
Cardiff Community Healthcare,
Trenewydd,
Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.
January 20.

Winning colours

From Mr P. R. Smith

Sir, Mr Alan Shuback (letter, January 18) states that, despite numerous kit changes, the England football team has only won one World Cup — a competition involving the whole world and culminating in finals played in a different country and continent every four years; whereas the New York Yankees have won 23 World Series — an annual competition involving only North American baseball teams — without the aid of a kit change.

To be fair, a comparable competition would be the Home International Championship that sadly ended in 1984, which England won 34 times and shared a further 20 times.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. SMITH,
5 Ashworth Close,
Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Sport letters, page 47

Tide of opinion on proposal to replace Britannia

From Mr William Jory

Sir, The British taxpayer will greet the news of a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* with dismay (reports and leading article, January 23). For over a quarter of a century *Britannia* was financed by our always-stretched defence budget as a hospital ship, but was never used as one, being kept away from the Falklands and Gulf Wars. In the former, 800 schoolchildren were taken off an educational voyage on the *Uganda* and she was dispatched instead.

Now, according to your leader, a replacement would be justified for her "value to exports alone". If this is the true justification for the ship, surely businessmen, so keen to promote their own goods aboard her, could finance, build and run their own "royal" yacht. This could then be leased to the Royal Family when required. Other successful exporting nations appear to manage very well without such a yacht.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM JORY,
The Old House, Michelmersh,
Nr Romsey, Hampshire.
January 23.

From Mrs E. A. Raisman

Sir, The Royal Yacht *Britannia* is not a perk for the Royal Family. It is an embassy ship. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family are our most sought-after roving ambassadors. We do not expect business to pay for our embassies even though a major part of their work is to promote British business. This helps to promote national prosperity. It is for the State, that is the taxpayer, to pay.

Our standing is judged by the quality of our representation. We should not stint in its presentation.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE RAISMAN,
Netheravon House,
Netheravon Road South, W4.

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN, Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, So shipbuilders are delighted that there is to be a new royal yacht. In the absence of orders to meet long-established MoD requirements for replacement submarines and air defence destroyers, the few shipyards we have left are forced to grab at any straw that is available.

Public debate on the Royal Navy seems mostly concerned with *Britannia* and the fate of Greenwich and Admiralty Arch, all of which are important to our national heritage and self-esteem, but contribute nothing in a military sense to the defence of vital maritime interests.

Is the future of the Services to be an issue in the general election campaign? Or are we content to take on trust political assurances that our Armed Forces will continue to be the "best" in the world, while arguing fiercely about who pays for a new royal yacht?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE,
Editor,
Jane's Fighting Ships,
Foundry House,
Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.
January 22.

From Commander Nick Messinger, Editor of Tall Ship International

Sir, Your editorial today concerning the planned replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* is to be commended. Why not a "majestic, square-rigged sailing ship"? She would indeed be more eye-catching than any motorised yacht.

There is a global renaissance in tall ships and this once pre-eminent maritime nation of ours richly deserves its own Class A fully-rigged ship. Besides, just about every other maritime nation worth its salt has one.

However, I find it difficult to justify such enormous expense, £60 million, entirely from the public purse. But if such a vessel could be subsidised by British industry, and manned by the youth of Great Britain, then I'm sure the project would achieve my full support.

Young people, from all walks of life, could compete to sail in her as crew. What a magnificent accolade for Duke of Edinburgh Award winners and top "Queen's Cadets" from the newly proposed school corps.

Yours sincerely,
NICK MESSINGER,
Editor,
Tall Ship International,
Guggleton Farm, Stalbridge, Dorset.
January 23.

From Mr H. W. Cooke

Sir, How is it that the Government can say that the new *Britannia* will be built in a British shipyard? Surely EU procurement regulations require that contracts for goods and services over approximately £150,000 and for works over £4 million be put out to tender?

Yours faithfully,
H. W. COOKE,
570 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh.
January 23.

From Mr Robin Watson

Sir, I found it disturbing that on the same day as your headline proclaims the £60 million funding of a replacement for *Britannia*, my local paper's headline warned of the closure of 23 libraries in Kent. The reason for the closures, apparently, is the cutback in central government funding to the county council.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WATSON,
The Old Vicarage,
Underriver, nr Sevenoaks, Kent.
January 23.

European integration

From Mr Stephen Woodard

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky, in his article of January 14, discusses the idea that European integration may fail because the member states of the European Union fight "tooth and nail for their national interests in Brussels" and will not suddenly start to think of themselves as Europeans.

However, building a united Europe is not supposed to eliminate national differences or ignore national interests. The European Union's institutions allow the member states to achieve things together which they could not achieve separately, the obvious example being the single market, by providing a framework of decision-making and law enforcement.

It is expected that all member states will use these institutions to promote their national interests whilst working together to forge policies which overall will benefit each member state. The European Unon is an ongoing negotiation where the emphasis is in painstakingly building consensus and agreement.

Despite the hysteria of the Eurosceptics, majority voting is only used as a last resort and Britain very rarely loses any votes — indeed we lose less than quite a few other member states including Germany. We also lose less in the European Court of Justice than most other member states even though the Eurosceptics ignore every victory and treat any defeat as a national humiliation.

We must replace a childish Euro-hysteria with a grown-up understanding that we, along with all the other member states, are expected to defend our national interests in the European Union and that occasionally we will not get what we want, but that overall we get a very good deal from our membership. It is to share in those benefits that the countries of Eastern and Central Europe are applying for full membership of the EU.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN WOODARD
(Director), European Movement —
United Kingdom,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1.
January 14.

Rabies and quarantine

From Mr Paul DeVile

Sir, Valerie Elliott accurately reports my reservations concerning the "government proposals" outlined in her report (January 11), but it is overstating the case to describe me as "a strong opponent of any relaxation". Both the British Veterinary Association and the National Canine Defence League, for whom I act as spokesperson from time to time, have consistently said that a system such as that proposed would be perfectly acceptable, provided that it can be seen to provide the same level of protection as that afforded by quarantine. Indeed the NCDL would welcome a system that reduced or eliminated the need for quarantine, while at the same time ensuring that the UK retains its rabies-free status.

I am in correspondence with the Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mrs Angela Browning, who informs me that her department is studying various options, of which the "passport for pets" scheme is presumably one. Should a viable and enforceable alternative to quarantine be identified, a risk assessment exercise will follow before a final decision is taken.

This, combined with a feasibility study by those responsible for the implementation of any new regulations to ensure that we can cope with the anticipated massive increase in the number of importations, is surely the right approach before abandoning a system that, albeit now possibly outdated, has stood us well for nigh on 100 years.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DeVILE
(Chief Veterinary Officer),
National Canine Defence League,
17 Wakley Street, EC1.
January 13.

Athens and Ankara

From the High Commissioner for Cyprus

Sir, For over 22 years Turkey has been grossly violating the most basic principles of international law by her continuing illegal occupation of part of the territory of the independent, sovereign state of Cyprus.

Yet, in your leading article of January 13, "Athens and Ankara", you accuse the victim of "irresponsible brinkmanship", merely for announcing that it intends to defend itself in the event of further attack, and you overlook the need for any self-respecting government to protect its people.

You apparently assume that a solution to the Cyprus problem would have been just around the corner were it not for my Government's decision to buy Russian surface to air missiles. This ignores the fact that all previous negotiations to find a permanent settlement to the Cyprus problem have failed exclusively because of Turkey's illegal use of military force, her continuing colonisation of the territory she controls and her gross abuse of fundamental human rights of all Cypriots.

It is Turkey which is in breach of international law in Cyprus. Countless UN Security Council resolutions remain unimplemented by Turkey. Until this is understood, the dangers of the "Eastern Question" — ie, the violation by Turkey of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne — will persist.

Yours faithfully,
V. MARKIDES,
Cyprus High Commission,
93 Park Street, W1.

From Mr E. Hurer

Sir, The so-called diplomatic coup, heralded as a success at easing tensions in Cyprus by Mr Carey Cavanaugh, Bill Clinton's special envoy (report, January 14), is nothing more than a deception.

President Clerides has now stated that the 16-month timescale is not a concession but the date set by the Russians for final delivery and deployment of the S300 missiles.

Lies, deception and blackmail will not force the Turks and the Turkish Cypriots to offer concessions or bring them to the negotiating table and the Greek Cypriots should wake up to this fact.

Yours faithfully,
E. HURER (Chairman),
Turkish Cypriot Lobby Group,
PO Box 11333, London N13 4TU.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Comparative art

From Mr Dennis Berry

Sir, I usually read Richard Cork's writings on contemporary art with amusement, but his comments on Tony Cragg's current exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery ("Beauty found in our daily junk", Arts, January 14) I am afraid go beyond such indulgent toleration.

To suggest that Cragg is in any way reminiscent of Leonardo, with whom he is united because of their instinctive fascination with science, is preposterous. So it was all due to the time Cragg spent working as a laboratory technician? Junk indeed!

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS BERRY,
11 Fairacre,
Acacia Grove,
New Malden, Surrey.
January 15.

Soft fruit?

From Mr John B. Harris

Sir, When I played it was lemons at half-time for rugger (report, January 18). Oranges were for girls' hockey.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. HARRIS,
15 Chartwell House,
12 Ladbroke Terrace, W11.
January 19.

Water buffalo

From Dr Simon Strickland

Sir, One should not be dissuaded from farming buffalo by their purported unwholesome habits or unpredictable temperament (letters, January 7, 13, 17).

Although having never moved more speedily than when being charged by an irate bull that, about to be slaughtered for a Gurkha funeral, broke its tether as I attempted to take its photograph, I have often enjoyed buff steaks, fresh creamy milk and yoghurts in the Middle Hills of Nepal.

Moreover, the wonders of its hide are not to be underestimated: my buffalo-skin wallet, made in England and purchased in 1982, must surely have lasted longer than many a costlier alternative.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON STRICKLAND,
98 Thanet House,
Thanet Street, WC1.
January 18.

From Mr Roy Munden

Sir, I disagree with Mr Terence Parsons and Mr Peter Bayley about the eating qualities of water buffalo (letters, January 17).

On leaving Hong Kong in 1951 I spent most of the following 15 years in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. Although steak was rarely part of my diet I enjoyed the occasional succulent and tender cut of well hung, slightly coarse-grained, dark "beef".

It was only on my return to Hong Kong in 1966 that I realised what an insipid flavour real beef has when compared with water buffalo.

Anyone who has used brisket or shin of water buffalo in a stew will never willingly use beef again for this dish.

Yours sincerely,
R. V. MUNDEN,
Lower Woodbrook,
Lowton, Taunton, Somerset.
January 17.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 23: By Command of The Queen, Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Jiang Enzhu at 49 Portland Place, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the People's Republic of China to the Court of St James's.

Her Majesty was represented by the Earl of Courtown (Lord in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Sir Roderick Barclay (formerly Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium) which was held in St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, London SW1, today

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 23: The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE — the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this morning visited Woodside Family Centre, Kingswood, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

Her Royal Highness, Commandant in Chief, St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, later opened the new Training and Resource Centre and Ambulance Station at the Harry Crook Centre, Raleigh Road, Bedminster, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr James Tidmarsh).

The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, this afternoon opened the Bath and District Citizens Advice Bureau, 2 Edgar Buildings, Bath, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Sir John Wills, Bt).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 23: The Prince of Wales today visited the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies, Cambridge, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 23: The Duke of Gloucester this evening opened the exhibition "Paper Palaces", architectural works from the collection of Cambridge University Library, at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Stirling Carers Centre, The Norman MacEwan Centre, 41 Cameronian Street, Upper Craigs, Stirling, at 1.00; and will attend the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils' national seminar and annual meeting at the Stakis Dunblane Hydro, Perth Road, Dunblane, at 2.50.

Oxford & Bermondsey Club

To mark the centenary of the Oxford and Bermondsey Club a service of re-dedication will be held in Southwark Cathedral on Thursday, March 20, at 7pm. A reception will be held in Glaziers' Hall afterwards. Admission is by ticket only. Will all Friends of the OBC who would like to attend please contact the Events Organiser, Oxford & Bermondsey Club, 3 Webb Street, SE1 4RP.

Admiral Arthur Phillip

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Sheriff and Mrs Keith Knowles, with the Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, attended the annual commemoration service for Admiral Arthur Phillip, founder and first governor of New South Wales, held yesterday at St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside. Mr Julian Jeffs, QC, gave an address. A luncheon was held afterwards at Grocers' Hall.

Luncheon

National Sporting Club
Mr Paul Ackford and Mr Dean Richards were the guests of honour and speakers at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr David Willis, secretary, presided.

Reception

Fulbright Scholars
Lord Henley, Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment, presided at a reception given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of US Fulbright Scholars in the United Kingdom.

Merseyside Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Merseyside and will receive their commissions in March:

Air Commodore Jack Broughton, Southport, Mr Richard Foster, Lower Heswall, Wirral, Mr William Fulton, South Wirral, Professor Philip N. Love, Liverpool, Mr Harry Rimmer, Liverpool, Sir James Sharples, Chief Constable of Merseyside, Mr Anthony W. Shone, West Kirby, Wirral.

Appointment

Professor Roger Gill, Director of Executive Development Programmes at Strathclyde University, to be Director of the Leadership Trust from February 1.

Memorial services

Sir Roderick Barclay

The Queen was represented by the Earl of Courtown at a memorial service for Sir Roderick Barclay held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson.

The Rev Christopher Courtauld officiated and the Rev Rachel Benson, cousin, led the prayers. The Right Rev Robin Woods pronounced the blessing.

Mr Joe Barclay, son, Mr Adrian Harley, grandson, and Mrs Henryetta Simpson, granddaughter, read the lessons. *Mr Andrew Palmer*, son-in-law, gave an address. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Margetson and the Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr Peter Torry. The Belgian Chargé d'Affaires was present. Mr Henrik Sørensen represented the Danish Embassy.

Among others present were:

Mrs Andrew Palmer (daughter), Mr and Mrs David Keown-Boyd and Mr and Mrs Christopher Harley (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs Joe Barclay (daughter-in-law), Miss Harriet Barclay, Miss Rosanna Barclay, Roddy Barclay, Mr Roddy Simpson, Mr William Keown-Boyd, Mr and Mrs Alex Gray, Mr Robert Keown-Boyd, Mr and Mrs *Edward Harley, Dr John Harley, Mr Philip* Harley, Mr Rod Palmer, Viscount and Viscountess Garmoyle and Mr Michael Palmer (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Gordon Barclay, Dr and Mrs Oliver Barclay and Dr and Mrs Alec Barclay (half-brothers and half sisters-in-law), Miss Ruth Barclay (half-sister).

The Countess of Darnley, Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, Lady Gore-Booth, Lord and Lady Holderness, Lady Hayter, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Palliser, Lady Caroline Simmonds, the Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham, the Hon Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripley, Sir John Greenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Williams.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (also representing Slough Estates and the Council of the Order of St John for Buckinghamshire) and the Hon Lady Mobbs, Lady Woods, Sir Edward Jackson (also representing the Anglo-Belgian Society) and Lady Jackson, Sir Mark and Lady Heath, Sir John and Lady Wraight, Sir Patrick Reilly, Sir Derek Dodson, Sir Nicholas Henderson.

Sir Reginald Hibbert, Sir Kenneth James, Sir John Gray, Sir Nicholas Barrington, Sir Michael Wilford, Sir Timothy and Lady Bevan, Sir Alan Campbell, Sir Donald Logan, Sir Peter Leslie, Sir Denis Wright, Sir Leonard Figg, Mr Barry and Lady Charlotte Dinan.

Mr Richard Barclay, Mr and Mrs Toby Barclay, Mr Christopher Barclay, Mr Kit Barclay, Mr and Mrs H Keown-Boyd, Mrs John Gladstone, Mr and Mrs James Gladstone, Mrs M V Gladstone, Mr Ben Gladstone, Mrs James Buxton, Mr Jonathan Buxton, Mr Gervase Buxton, Major and Mrs W Birkbeck, Miss Jinny Birkbeck, Ms Rachel Cella, Sam Rae, Mrs Gerald Mobbs, Mrs Peter Afia, Mrs Hamish Gray-Cheape.

Dr and Mrs K Heywood, Mr and Mrs Denis Doble, Mrs David Staughton, Mrs Ben Glazebrook, Mr and Mrs Charles Swallow, Mr and Mrs Peter Holmes, Mr Julian Cazalet, Mr H U A Lambert, Mr and Mrs Ronald Pilkington, Mrs David Faulkner, Mr and Mrs Ian Laing, Mrs G E Darwin, Mr Julian Wathen, Dr Mary Burnell-Nugent, Mrs Hugh Creighton, Mrs Sonia Harrap.

Mr and Mrs Kennedy Erskine, Miss Alethea Hayter, Mr Graham Page, the Rev Julian Harford, Mr Henry Hainworth, Mr and Mrs Ben Mackworth-Praed, Mr William Harris, QC, Miss Pat Malley, Mr Tom Soper, Mr Robin Thorne, Mrs Michael Farmer, Mr and Mrs W J Mackenzie, Mr N A Maxwell-Lawford, Mr William Harris, QC.

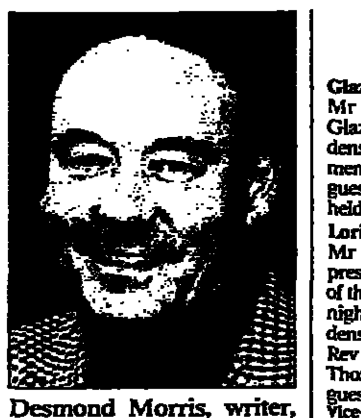
Mr Julian Smith (British and Foreign Bible Society), Mr Robert Creighton, (chief executive, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust) and many other friends.

Mr Nicholas Verey

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Nicholas Verey, stockbroker, was held yesterday at St Giles Cripplegate. Canon Peter Elvy, Vicar of Chelsea Old Church, officiated. Miss Carol Galley read the lesson.

Mr Dickon Verey, son, read John Masefield's *Sea Feaver* and Mr David Verey, cousin, read from the works of Theodore Roosevelt. Mr Peter Wilmot-Sitwell gave an address.

Miss Georgia Verey, daughter, and Miss Emma Munro-Wilson sang Simon and Garfunkel's *Sound of Silence*.



Desmond Morris, writer, broadcaster and zoologist, is 69 today

Birthdays today

Mr Eric Ashton, former rugby league coach, 62; Miss Nora Beloff, author, 78; Mr Harry Brett, former general secretary, Prison Governors Association, 50; Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, 55; Mr Neil Diamond, singer and actor, 52; Mr Bamber Gascoigne, author and broadcaster, 62; Mr Peter Laister, company director, 68; Mr M.J. Le May, banker 39; Sir Donald Murray, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 74; Dr Ian Oliver, Chief Constable, Grampian, 57; Lord Savile, 78; Dr Jane Somerville, cardiologist, 64; Mr John Wadham, director, Liberty (*National Council for Civil Liberties*), 45; the Most Rev J.A. Ward, Archbishop of Cardiff, 68; Air Commodore Sir Archie Winskill, former Captain of The Queen's Flight, 80.

Latest wills

Sir Nigel Thomas Loveridge Fisher, former Conservative MP, of Chilton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £364,488 net.

Major-General Sir Christopher Earle Welby-Everard, of Sapperton, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £389,283 net.

He left £500 to the Carthusian Trust and to Lincoln Diocesan Trust for the maintenance of Sapperton church.

Dinners

Glaziers' Company
Mr M.C. Tosh, Master of the Glaziers' Company, with the Wardens and their ladies, received members of the Court and their guests at a quarter court dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall.

Loriners' Company
Mr John A. Bischoff, Master, presided at the installation dinner of the Loriners' Company held last night at Vintners' Hall. The Wardens, Dr James Pitts-Payne, the Rev Henry Burgin and Mr Paul Thomas also spoke. Among the guests were:
Vice-Admiral J R Brigstocke, Mr Richard Meade, Mr Bruce George, MP, and the Masters of the Cordwainers', the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' and the Parish Clerks' Companies.

Shipwrights' Company
Mr J.G.M. Hart, Prime Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, presided at the company's election dinner held last night at Ironmongers' Hall. Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, QC, was the principal speaker. The Masters of the Fletchers' and the Watermen's Companies, the Master of the Merchants' Company of Edinburgh, the Deacon of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow, the President of the Chamber of Shipping and the Chairman of the Institute of London Underwriters were among those present. Earlier, Mr Hart presented the Fieldhouse Memorial Medal to Lieutenant Peter Deeks, RN, and the Queen's Silver and the Company's Bronze Medals for the Shipyard Apprentices of 1996 to Mr Stuart Howie, of Yarrow Shipbuilders, and to Mr Gary Dixon of AMEC Process & Energy, Wallsend.

Institute of Physics
Dr Alan Rudge, FRS, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of BT, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual awards dinner of the Institute of Physics held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Dr Brian Manley, president, was in the chair and presented medals and prizes to:
Professor A Donnachie (Glazebrook); Professor J E Baldwin (Guthrie); Professor P W Higgs (Paul Dirac); Dr M W Forty (Charles Vernon Boys); Mr T D R Hickson (Bragg); Professor J M D Coey (Charles Chree); Dr B W Delf (Kelvin); Dr M Wilkinson (Maxwell); Professor C T Elliott and Dr T Ashley (Paterson); Professor K Burnett (Thomas Young).

Representatives of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, the Royal Institution, the Geological Society, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Biology, the Engineering Council, the Institute of Food Science and Technology, the Institute of Materials, the Armourers' and Brasiers' Company, the Association for Science Education, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Institution of Chemical Engineers were among those present.

Institute of Logistics
Mr David A. Quarmby, President of the Institute of Logistics, presented the Sir Robert Lawrence Award and a Gold Medal to Mr James Higginbotham at the annual dinner of the institute held last night at the Park Lane Hotel. Mr Mike Burbage, chairman, welcomed the guests. Dr Ian C. Canadine, director-general, presided. Professor Martin Christopher also spoke.

Service dinners

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the host at a dinner held last night onboard the flagship *HMS Victory* in Portsmouth. Among the guests were:
The American Ambassador and Mrs Crowe, Sir Simon and Lady Tuckey, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief USN Europe and Mrs Bill, Dr Tidu Maini (managing director, GEC-Marconi S31) and Mrs Maini, and the Vice-Chancellor of Plymouth University and Mrs Bull.

Naval Club
Lieutenant-Commander John McPhail was the main speaker at a Burns' Night Dinner held last night at the Naval Club. Mr Alan Ure presided.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

CAPTAIN: T J Barton - Endurance in Cmd 8.7.97; N W Thomas - SHAPE Belgium in rank of Cdre 12.8.97.

COLONEL: I McNeill - HQ North in rank of Brigadier 30.6.97.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: R P W Wilsey - COMSTRIKFORSTH (UKSO AFSouth) in rank of Local Colonel 21.5.97.

COMMANDER: M K Brown - SACLANT USA 3.6.97; R G Cooling - COMUKTG/CASWSF 15.7.97; M J Dale - Exchange USA 22.7.97; S J J Haill - Captain RNP 1.4.97; M Harris - staff of 2SL/CNH FOTR as Cdr 8.4.97; A Higham - SHAPE Belgium 24.3.97; W J Keegan - Invincible 4.7.97; I Moncrieff - Illustrious 15.7.97; C C Peach - staff of 2SL/CNH FOTR in rank of A/Capt 11.3.97; M Reid - MOD London 18.7.97; C M Richards - FOSF Northwood (Warrior) 10.6.97; W R Root - ELANT/NAVNW (Warrior) 10.6.97; M W B Shaw - Capt F2(SEA) 14.2.97; I Shepherd - Nelson 15.7.97; N L Smee - staff of FOSF Portsmouth 13.5.97; J R Townsend - DG Ships Devonport 4.3.97; J S Westbrook - FOSM Nwood OPS (Warrior) 18.3.97; S G Wilson - BDS Washington 8.7.97.

Retirements

COMMODORE: W B Harris - 31.3.97.

CAPTAIN: J D Bass - 15.3.97; A D Ferguson - 7.4.97; A E Slater - 8.3.97.

LOCAL LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: I Ballantyne - 12.4.97; A J Berry - 21.3.97.

COMMANDER: J E Dawson - 15.3.97; K R Doney - 8.3.97; R C Harvey - 5.4.97; D J Hughes - 22.2.97; P V Hunt - 12.4.97; C F Hames - 1.3.97; A D Johnson - 12.4.97; A N Law - 22.2.97; R F Lovett - 8.3.97.

SURGEON COMMANDER: C N Warlow - 24.3.97.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.K.T. Brech
and Miss A.T. Lane-Nott
The engagement is announced between Dougal, son of Mr and Mrs David Brech, of Chalford, South Gloucestershire, and Antonia, daughter of Rear-Admiral and Mrs Roger Lane-Nott, of Ramsey, Cambridgeshire.

Mr P.D.K. Brooker
and Miss K.V. Barnett
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Brooker, of Matching Green, Essex, and Kate Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Barnett, of Hastingwood, Essex.

Mr B.J. Cansfield
and Miss S.J. Cass
The engagement is announced between Barry John, only son of Mr and Mrs B. Cansfield, of Neville Grove, Guisborough, Cleveland, and Sarah Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Cass, of The Mill House, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.T. Epps
and Dr H.D. Pope
The engagement is announced between Marc, elder son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Epps, of Marden, Herefordshire, and Henrietta, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Pope, of Didmarton, Gloucestershire.

Mr W.F. Farrell
and Miss J.M. Startin
The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs William Farrell, of Omaha, Nebraska, USA, and Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Startin, of Emsworth, Hampshire.

M M-O. Petit
and Miss A. Newsom-Davis
The engagement is announced between Marc-Olivier, son of M and Mme Marcel Petit, of Paris, France, and Amelia, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs John Newsom-Davis, of Oxford.

Mr D. Weir
and Miss F.C. Springfield
The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Mrs Linda Weir, of Swinton, Lancashire, and Fenella, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Springfield, of Milton Lilbourne, Wiltshire.

Mr S.C. Welman
and Miss E.L.K. Morris
The engagement is announced between Sean, fourth son of Mr and Mrs Anthonie Welman, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Morris, of York.

Mr B.P. Kearns
and Miss V.L. Locks
The engagement is announced between Brian Philip, youngest son of Mr Dennis Kearns and the late Mrs Kearns, of Liverpool, and Virginia Louise, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Locks, of Loughton, Essex.

Mr M.I. Osman
and Miss S.K. Thomasson
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs P. Osman, of Great Baddow, Essex, and Sophy, daughter of Mr C.L. Thomasson, of Somerton Castle, Lincolnshire, and Mrs K. Thomasson, of Evesham, Worcestershire.

Mr A.D. Tabachnik
and Miss M.D. Miller
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr Eldred Tabachnik, QC, and Mrs Tabachnik, of Wimbledon, London, and Margo, daughter of Dr Irvin Miller and Linda Miller, of New York.

Mr J.J. Tigue
and Miss R.C. Lovel
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs John Tigue, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, and Ruth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lester Lovel, of Burton Ferry, Pembrokeshire.

Mr S.P.R. Vivian
and Miss I.S. Thornton
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Dr and Mrs Patrick Vivian, of Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, and Suzy, only daughter of Mr Michael Thornton, of Ferndown, Dorset, and Mrs Marian Thornton, of Poole, Dorset.

Dr M.G. Warden
and Miss S.E. Hayward
The engagement is announced between Matthew, only son of Mr Colin Warden, of Thorpe, Surrey and the late Mrs Sally Warden, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hayward, of Hurst Green, East Sussex.

Marriage

Professor L.C.G. Rogers
and Miss J.F. Lindeck, FRCS
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 18, at St Luke's Church, Bath, between Professor Leonard Christopher Gordon Rogers, son of Professor and Mrs G.L. Rogers, of Budleigh Salterton, and Miss Judith Flora Lindeck, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. Lindeck, of Watford.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Hadrian, Roman Emperor 117-138, Italica, Spain, 76AD; Sir John Vanbrugh, dramatist and architect, London, baptised this day, 1664; William Congreve, dramatist, Bardsey, Yorkshire, 1670; Frederick II the Great, King of Prussia 1740-86, Berlin, 1712; Pierre de Beaumarchais, dramatist, Paris, 1732; Charles James Fox, statesman, London, 1749; Muzio Clementi, pianist and composer, Rome, 1752; Sir Thomas Blamey, field marshal, Wagga-Wagga, New South Wales, 1884; Keith Douglas, poet, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1920.

DEATHS: James Ralph, writer, London, 1762; Adam Black, publisher and politician, Edinburgh, 1874; Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, London, 1895; Margaret Hungerford, novelist, Bandon, Cork, 1897; Edward MacDowell, composer, New York, 1908; Amadeo Modigliani, painter and sculptor, Paris, 1920; Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister 1940-45 and 1951-55, London, 1965.

King Henry III married Eléanor of Provence, 1236.

Conscription was introduced in Britain, 1916.

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But you, my sons, draw your courage and strength from the law, for through it glory will be yours. 1 Maccabees 2 : 64

BIRTHS

ARNOLD - On January 13th, to Diana (née Turner) and Christopher, a daughter, Hannah Margaret.

CORBEAR - On January 9th, to Helena (née Duff) and Simon, a daughter, Charlotte Emily Adelaide.

COOPER - On January 22nd at The Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, to Sharon and Gary, Greengraves, Dundonald, a son, Peter Gareth.

ELWES - On January 20th, to Jonathan and Louisa, daughter number 4, Isabella Caroline, a sister for Hermione, Marina and Tatiana - Hallelujah!

HARDYMAN - On 15th January 1997, to Robyn (née Ayers) and Nicholas a son, William Crispin Rowland.

PAKENHAM - On 6th January, to Sue and Robin, an adorable first child, Benjamin.

PARKER - On January 21st 1997, in Singapore, to Jane (née Gillies) and Christian, a daughter, Phoebe Madeleine Elizabeth.

SLOAN - On January 13th 1997 at Stamford, to Fiona (née Wood) and Philip, a daughter, Jasmine de Chastelain, a sister for Henry.

WAY - On 21st December 1996, to Carolyn (née Chambers) and Paul, twin daughters, Electra Iolanthe Chambers and Angelica Catharine Chambers.

WISEMAN - On January 22nd, to Christa and Richard, twins, Elise Grace and Zoe Eleanor, sisters for Sebastian.

DEATHS

BAYNE - Elsie Pauline aged 75 peacefully at home in Carshalton after a short illness on 20th January 1997. Much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Funeral Service to be held at Croydon Crematorium Tuesday 28th January 11am.

BEDDY - Sheila Clare Moriarty Beddy died at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone, Kent, on January 16th aged 82. Funeral on January 30th at 12 noon St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, Sussex. Family flowers only. If desired donations to Cancer Relief c/o Heathfield F/D, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8AE, (01435) 862648.

BLOW - Ethel peacefully passed away on 18th January 1997, aged 94 years. Will be sadly missed by all her friends. Funeral Service at the Downs Crematorium, Bear Road, Brighton, on Wednesday 29th January at 11.30 am. *Flowers may be* sent to Arthur Dunyer, 18/19 Lewes Road, Brighton, tel: (01273) 681718. All friends will be welcome.

DEATHS

BRODIE - *Lettice, peacefully* at home on January 23rd. Thanksgiving Service at St Bartholomew's, Rogate at 2.30 pm on Friday January 31st. No flowers. Donations can be sent to either Oxfam or to The Roof Appeal, St George's Church, Trotton.

BURNS - Eileen Margaret, passed away at The Devon and Exeter Hospital on Tuesday 21st January 1997. Beloved wife of Robbie and greatly loved mother of Judith and Tim, loving Grandma of Charlotte, James, Tom, Hannah, Adele and Emma and dearest mother-in-law of Zoë and George. Funeral Service will take place at Exeter Crematorium (St Pauls), on Monday 27th January at 12.45 pm.

CAMPS - On January 17th peacefully aged 86 years, William Anthony (Tony), Fellow and former Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Little Abington, at 11 am on 30th January 1997. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Camsight, 167 Green End Road, Cambridge CB4 1RW. A Memorial Service at Pembroke College will be announced later.

CARTER - Eileen Ann (née Farthing), peacefully at Broomfield Hospital on 23rd January 1997. Eileen will be sadly missed by husband Colin, sons Alistair and Bruce and her beloved granddaughter Bethany. Funeral Service will take place on Monday 10th February 1997 at Chelmsford Crematorium at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research or Ward B10 Broomfield Hospital, c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 86 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SS. *All enquiries to* (01245) 353978.

COX - On January 20th at Hereford County Hospital, Judith, daughter of the late Donald and Mary Cox of Brithdir, Dolgellau and sister of Andrew. Funeral at St Peter's Church, Bromyard, on Thursday January 30th at 2.30 pm, followed by interment. Flowers or if preferred donations in aid of Hereford Hospice to H.H. Handley Funeral Directors, Bromyard, Herefordshire, (01885) 482216.

CRISPIN - Ian died peacefully on January 20th 1997 after a brave fight against cancer, aged 47. Beloved husband of Madeleine and much loved father of Rupert, Toby, Emily, Sam and George. Service will take place at St Cuthbert's Church, SW5, at 2.30 pm Monday 27th January. No flowers. Donations please to St John's Hospice, St John's Wood.

CURTIS - Dr G.C. Curtis, see Pappworth - on 21st January 1997.

DOGGETT - *Angela. Passed* away peacefully on 22nd January 1997 at home .The funeral service will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Newtown, Hants. on Tuesday 28th January at 3pm, followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers may be sent to Barrells Funeral Directors, 380 *London Road, Waterlooville*, Hants. (tel: 01705-269000).

FAWCETT - Sara, on 22nd January, at home after a long illness. Beloved daughter of Robert and Esme, and sister of Henry. Cremation - Family only. No flowers please, but *if desired donations for* Cancer Research Campaign to Funeral Directors - E.M. & D.C. Bates, Heath Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26 2AJ. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at the Parish Church, Appledore, Kent at 2.30 pm on Friday 21st February.

FISHWICK - Clifford, Artist of Topsham, suddenly on January 22nd, much loved husband of Patricia, father and grandpa. Funeral Service Exeter and Devon Crematorium, Thursday January 30th at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if *desired to Shelter c/o* Mitchell Funeral Services, King William Street, Exeter EX4 6PD.

FROSELL - Col. Sergei Albert (Bob), MC, RE. Died on January 4th after a short illness, aged 75. 'United with Mary and at peace' from your loving children, sister and families, Sarah, Robert, Mary-Lou, Kate and Annie. Funeral January 31st 3.30pm at Cheltenham Crematorium. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to The Injured Jockey's Fund.

HEMPSON - *Edward John, died* suddenly but peacefully at home on January 20th 1997, aged 71. Beloved husband of Eileen. Loved and cherished father of Susie, Nonie and Wendy, and father-in-law of John, Christof and Jim. Proud grandfather of Henrietta, Carl, Claudia, Oscar, Rachael, Tom, Sophie and Niamh. Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30 pm Thursday 30th January 1997 at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Wonersh. Donations, if desired, to The British Heart Foundation c/o Aylings, tel: (01483) 567333.

HOOPER - Peter Ross on January 21st, in his 66th year, as a result of an accident. Much loved husband of Patricia and father of Sarah, Elizabeth and Tim. Grandfather of Fergus and Alice, younger brother of Ian. Funeral on Tuesday 28th January 2 pm at Calverton Church, Calverton, near Stony Stratford. Family flowers only.

KIDD - Alexander Kirt (Sandy) died on January 19th 1997 in Oxford. Funeral on Monday 27th January at 11am, followed by interment at Wolvercote Cemetery. He will be very much missed by family and many friends.

LAMBTON - On January 21st, Iris, much loved mother of Rosemary. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday January 29th at 3.45 pm.

LESLIE MELVILLE - Major Michael Ian - Peacefully, on 22nd January 1997, at St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh. Much loved father of Hamish, Pamela and Fiona. Funeral Service on Wednesday January 29th at 12 noon at Cramond Kirk, Edinburgh, followed by private cremation. Interment Service later in the Highlands. No flowers please but donations to St Columba's Hospice, 15 Boswall Road, Edinburgh EH5 3RW.

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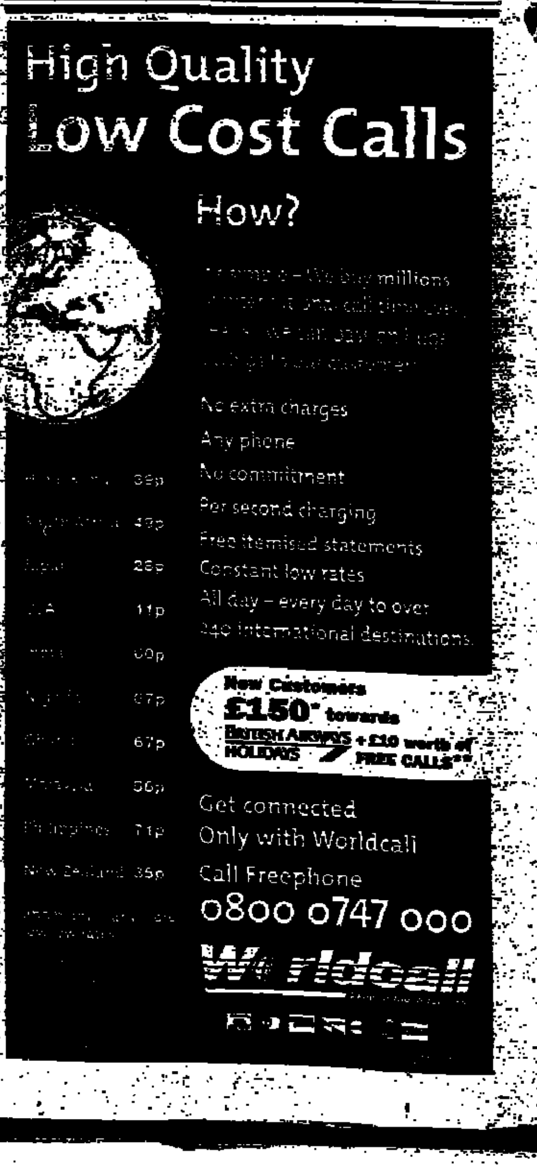

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OBITUARIES

'COLONEL' TOM PARKER

"Colonel" Tom Parker, promoter and agent of Elvis Presley, died on January 21 aged 87. He was born on June 26, 1909.

As a circus barker in the early 1950s American Deep South, Tom Parker had run a troupe of dancing chickens, until in 1955 he met a sallow-skinned lorry driver called Elvis Presley who had ambitions to sing. Parker turned the young man into the best-known rock star in the world and made himself a fortune.

Until Presley's early death in 1977 he exercised total control over his protégé. Some accused him of exploitation, but he insisted that his conscience was clear.

Anyone who hoped to approach Presley had to go through "Colonel" Parker — the title, purely honorific, was bestowed by the Governor of Louisiana in 1948. His physical bulk was imposing, as were the cigars he smoked. But Presley appeared to appreciate the protection Parker gave him, even though the manager took sometimes as much as 50 per cent of his earnings. He called Parker and his wife Marie "the finest people in the world".

Parker was the son of an authoritarian, ex-military father, who bullied him in front of his peers. The experience bred in him a deep mistrust of other people's motives. Although he claimed he was born in West Virginia, he was actually Dutch, born Andreas Cornelius van Kuijk in Breda, Holland.

His father died when he was 16 and he stowed away on a ship and sailed for America where he reinvented himself, becoming Tom Parker. He had a brief career in the US Army, with the artillery in Hawaii.

From 1932 he worked in circuses, travelling through small Southern towns arranging advertising and getting to know the Country and Western singers who hung around the circuses. For a few years he managed the singer Eddy Arnold in Nashville. Later he established links with the William Morris Agency in New York and with RCA. By the late 1940s Parker had become one of the most prominent promoters in Nashville.

He met Elvis at a gig in Memphis, Tennessee, and organised for him a series of bookings, the first in Carlsbad, New Mexico. At that time Presley called himself the Hillbilly Cat. On Parker's advice he quickly dropped the name. Because Elvis was under age, his parents' permission was required to hand over control of him to Parker. Gladys, Presley's dominating mother, stalled before eventually being coerced into signing.

The initial contact was an extraordinarily favourable instrument for Parker. Elvis was obliged to make 100 personal appearances for $200 each, and to share that fee among his musicians, at the same time as giving Parker a large slice of his earnings. No lawyers were consulted to look at the agreement which stood until four years after Presley's death. Once hired, Parker ended an arrangement the singer had with the small Sun record label and arranged a rich new contract with RCA Records. At $35,000 it brought Presley unimagined riches. But he quickly showed that it had been worth every cent when he produced the hit *Heartbreak Hotel* which outsold all other records in 1956.

Tom Parker with his protégé Elvis Presley

In many ways, Parker seems to have taken over from Gladys as the ruling force in Presley's life. Some thought he even looked a little like Gladys, with his double chins and his penchant for loose-fitting, flowered shirts. He controlled Presley as tightly as any parent. "If you ever do anything to make me ashamed of you," he told Presley in the early days, "we're through." Parker was particularly worried about Presley's womanising, which occasionally threatened to get out of control. Shrewdly, though, he knew that it also helped to fuel the Presley myth as a "dangerous" performer.

From 1960 onwards, after Presley had served his time in the Army, Parker persuaded him to appear in a string of films known as "chick flicks". They paid handsomely, but several times when Presley was offered decent dramatic roles — in *Thunder Road* (1958) and *A Star is Born* (1976) — Parker ruined the deal by asking for too much money.

Nevertheless, by 1964 Presley was worth $35 million, thanks not only to his records and films, but also to the large array of Elvis merchandise which Parker had developed. The one field of enterprise which the manager neglected was foreign concert tours. The reason, it was rumoured, was that Parker did not want to leave the United States for fear of not passing muster with the immigration authorities on his re-entry into the country.

After Presley's career hit a bleak period in the later 1960s Parker masterminded a comeback in Las Vegas in 1969, and oversaw the star's later incarnation as a cabaret entertainer. As inseparable as the two appeared, it was only after Presley's death that it emerged just how unfavourable to the entertainer and his estate their financial arrangements had been.

In 1973 Parker had reached an agreement with RCA Records which controlled the rights to all of Presley's recordings. For $5.4 million, Presley waived his rights to future royalties on the 700 recordings he had then made. No less than 50 per cent of this immediately went to Parker. So, after tax, Presley had made only $1.35 million for the rights to one of the most valuable bodies of musical work ever. After his death, when pressing plants across America worked around the clock to fill the demand for Presley albums, it was estimated that Presley's estate had lost several hundred million dollars.

His heirs sued Parker for fraud and mismanagement. A court ruled that he had no further right to the Presley estate. But Parker was left a wealthy man from his years with Presley. He retired to Las Vegas, and worked for the Hilton Hotels Corporation as entertainment adviser. He refused several offers to write about his years with Presley. "They want dirt," he said, "but I am not a dirt farmer."

His first wife Marie died in 1980. He is survived by his second wife Loanne. There were no children of either marriage.

SIR TOBIAS RODGERS, Bt

Sir Tobias Rodgers, 2nd Baronet, antiquarian bookseller, died in London on January 19 after a haemorrhage aged 56. He was born on July 2, 1940.

TOBIAS RODGERS was one of the most gifted and learned booksellers of his generation, a man with an exceptional connoisseur's "nose" for a book (and a picture as well) together with an encyclopaedic knowledge of places and dates of publication. His specialism was Spain and all things Hispanic but he had a profound knowledge of English books as well.

He could have risen to the heights in the trade; if he failed to do so, it was for reasons of personality rather than ability. His professional life was not well complemented by his private life as one of the great Bohemians of his time — "more of a boulevardier than a bookseller" as he described himself all too accurately in one of his own catalogues.

John Fairlie Tobias Rodgers was the elder of two sons of Sir John Rodgers. His father was for nearly 30 years Tory MP for Sevenoaks and a former leader of the Conservative delegation on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In 1964 he became — apart from Sir Denis Thatcher in 1991 — one of the last baronets to be created.

Toby was educated as a scholar at Eton and at Worcester College, Oxford. He was one of the cleverest members of a clever generation and was confidently expected to get a first and even win an All Souls fellowship. In the event, he left Oxford without a degree: he had contracted encephalitis and was unable to sit Schools.

He sometimes implied that this illness might have permanently impaired his faculties, though there was little outward sign of this for many years afterwards. Although he never became a professional scholar, he had already found the intellectual and emotional love of his life in Spain. An excellent linguist, he spoke fluent Spanish and came to know the country intimately, and sometimes clandestinely, in the Franco era.

After a while kicking his heels in London as a foreign language teacher, he lighted on his true *métier* in antiquarian bookselling. His first job was with the illustrious house of Bernard Quaritch (where one of his tasks was choosing books for Elizabeth Taylor to give to Richard Burton). In 1968 he went into partnership with Paul Grinke, another young bookseller.

Although their firm was shortlived, its brilliant catalogues, mostly of early English books, were praised by the authoritative *Book Collector*. Rodgers's gifts were also recognised by professionals of an older generation like Anthony Hobson and John Carter.

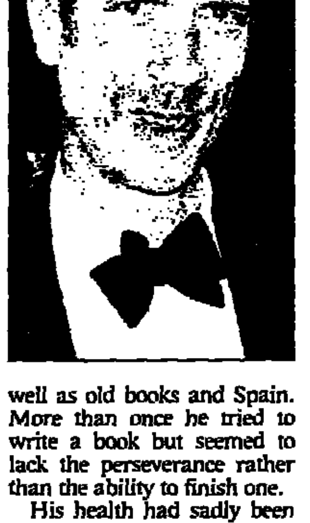
After several years with Christie's he set up his own business. For some time he owned a bookshop in Cecil Court, that bibliophile's paradise between Charing Cross Road and St Martin's Lane. It was named Quevedo, after the picaresque, not to say lewd and satirical, 17th-century Spanish writer who was a favourite of his.

But the shop was eventually closed, and during the 1980s and early 1990s his business was dormant, to the puzzlement of his friends and the despair of his bank manager. He survived, more or less, by occasional private transactions but at the same time he continued to hoard and accumulate stock. He reopened an office, in the ground floor of the building in Charlotte Street whose top floor housed *The Oldie* magazine.

Then came a second spring. Last year he finally produced another catalogue. Not only a feast of bibliophilic delicacies, it was so saltily and wittily written that Bernard Levin was inspired to devote a whole *Times* column to it. Its star item was a book containing a Hilliard miniature, which the V & A purchased. Another catalogue followed shortly after, written again in Rodgers's authentic style and including, most remarkably of all, the original *cédula* or official document from the Emperor Charles V which empowered Cristobal Vaca de Castro to investigate Pizarro's misdeeds in Peru in 1540 and thereby sealed his fate.

The catalogue also poignantly offered for sale "my own working library", in the form of a matchless collection of books and ephemera on the Spanish Civil War. Selling this was a recognition of defeat: "I very much doubt that 35 years of germination will ever flower into the book on Spanish anarchism that I intended for so long to write."

Rodgers was, in fact, a gifted writer as well as an exceptionally well-read man. He showed this on a frivolous level when he wrote a glossy magazine restaurant column, though not for long. He could, and should, have written on the subjects which enthralled him and which he knew backwards, jazz and movies as well as old books and Spain. More than once he tried to write a book but seemed to lack the perseverance rather than the ability to finish one.



His health had sadly been failing for some years before his death; sadder still, some of his ills were self-inflicted. He was a natural Bohemian, whose restlessness and unreliability were part of his charm. But what had once been high-spirited bibulous dissipation became something more secretive and destructive. He was brave in facing up to this. And yet in his last years he gave the impression that he no longer really wanted to survive, to the despair of those who loved him.

There were very many of them. A dry list of professional accomplishments gives no sense of Toby Rodgers's personal popularity and gift for friendship. He never married, but he was the lover of many women, most of whom remember him with affection, albeit sometimes tinged with exasperation at his ways, and resignation at the impossibility of reforming them.

He was a considerable figure in London social life, who cooked admirably when entertaining to dinner, and whose flat in Warwick Avenue was, from the 1970s to the 1990s, the scene for many memorable parties which should have been recorded by a Creevey, Goncourt or Scott Fitzgerald. Even up till last November, when he was all too visibly weak, he was still the annual organiser and animating spirit of the fireworks party in the communal gardens behind his flat.

He is survived by his mother and by his younger brother Piers, Secretary of the Royal Academy from 1982 until 1996, who inherits the baronetcy.

MYFANWY PIPER

Myfanwy Piper, art critic and librettist, died on January 18 aged 85. She was born on March 28, 1911.

MYFANWY PIPER made a threefold contribution to the arts in Britain. As a critic and editor in the 1930s, she was influential in the British reception of European abstract art; as the wife of the painter John Piper, she gave support and inspiration to a versatile and successful artist for more than fifty years; and as a librettist for Benjamin Britten, she played a vital part in the creation of some of the most important 20th-century British operas.

She had a natural talent for collaboration, and working with Britten drew on it to the full. As Peter Pears observed: "Britten's natural language was music; he was more at home with notes, pitches and sounds than he was with words." This added greatly to the responsibility of the librettists who worked with him.

"The words had to illuminate, by exactness and simplicity," Myfanwy Piper realised after watching the composer at work in rehearsal, "and each one had to bear repetition when Britten needed it." With literary sources as elusive as the stories by Henry James and Thomas Mann which were Piper's starting point, that was no easy task; but she discharged it with subtle aplomb in her adaptations of *The Turn of the Screw* (1954), *Owen Wingrave* (1970) and *Death in Venice* (1973).

She later wrote an absorbing account of working with Britten — "not all smooth going" and not without what she called "bombshells", but singularly fruitful. "Again and again," she recalled, "he made me expand the text with a liveliness that my too-slavish attention to the original might have failed to do. Alterations or modifications were always evoked, never dictated. There was a positive and continuing pleasure and pride in working with him."

Mary Myfanwy Evans was brought up in Hampstead, where her Welsh father ran a chemist's shop. From the North London Collegiate School she won an exhibition to read English at St Hugh's College, Oxford. There she captained the winning university swimming team in 1932.

Through the painter Ivon Hitchens, at a painting party on the Suffolk coast near Aldeburgh in 1934, she met John Piper. They married in 1937 and made their home, for the rest of their sternly creative but warmly hospitable lives, at Fawley Bottom, below steep Chiltern beechwoods. It became a centre of what their friend Kenneth Clark called "civilisation".

In 1935 Myfanwy Piper had founded and run *Axis*, an English review of abstract art which during its two-year life brought the latest European developments to British attention. John Piper was at this time essentially an abstract painter, but he and Myfanwy soon began to move towards an art more directly rooted in the observable world.

In 1937 Myfanwy edited a collection of essays, *The Painter's Object*, and wrote an illuminating book on the painter Frances Hodgkins. She provided some sensitive catalogue introductions for artists she admired.

John Piper worked closely with Benjamin Britten for almost thirty years, designing many of his operas from *The Rape of Lucretia* in 1946 to *Death in Venice* in 1973. Myfanwy was naturally involved in this mutually inspired working relationship, which was governed, as John Piper wrote, by the principle of "a united front by all participants from the first note on paper to the first night". She was an active participant almost from the beginning, as librettist for *The Turn of the Screw*, first performed in Venice in 1954.

That libretto may well be her greatest achievement. Working closely with Britten (often over the phone), she matched and even tautened the tension of Henry James's narrative. Her husband contributed one of his finest sets.

As well as her two further Britten operas, she went on to collaborate as librettist with the composers Alun Hoddinott and Malcolm Williamson, and to write a play based on Kierkegaard's *Diary of a Seducer* for the Danish actor Erik Mork.

John Piper died in 1992. Myfanwy nursed him with devotion in his last illness, during which their eldest son, Edward, an artist and photographer, died. She is survived by two daughters and a son.

Myfanwy Piper with Benjamin Britten

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Re: KAREL JOSEF PECINA NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925 ANY person having any claim against or an interest in the estate of KAREL JOSEF PECINA late of C'an Repous Calle Galatzo 15 Capdella 07196 Mallorca Spain who died on the 14th June 1996 is required to send particulars thereof to Sparling Benham & Brough 3 West Stockwell Street Colchester Essex CO1 1HQ the Solicitors for the Executors of the Will of the said deceased on or before the 28th March 1997 after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

DATED 21st January 1997
Sparling Benham & Brough
3 West Stockwell Street
Colchester
Essex CO1 1HQ
Solicitors for the Executors
Ref: MRC.

LEGAL NOTICES

INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1982 SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE OVERSEAS LIMITED TRANSFER OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 17 January 1997 for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, to transfer to Sun Alliance Verzekering NV all of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the Netherlands through the agencies of Schermer Assurantiën BV; Knight Schippers Assurantiën BV; Knight Schermer Assurantiën BV; Moes & Cavier Assurantiën BV; Tullenaers Van Buren; H J Roelofs Assurantiën BV; Tollenaar & Wegnenaer; Van Marle BV; O.W.J. Schlencker Assurantiën BV; Amsterdam Holland Assurantiën BV; Bicker Caarten Obreen; and A C Fraser & Co. prior to 31st December 1995.
2. Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at the registered offices of Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas Limited and Sun Alliance Verzekering NV respectively at 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB, England and Gebouw Rivierstaete, Amsteldijk 166, 1079 LH Amsterdam, Holland on Mondays to Fridays between 9.00am to 5.00pm when particulars may be inspected until 24 February 1997.
3. Written representation concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Insurance Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET before 26 March 1997. The Secretary of State will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to him before that date.

No 4499-1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
Mr Registrar Buckley
Tuesday the 21st day of January 1997
IN THE MATTER OF THE RESTAURANT PARTNERSHIP PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 14th November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £1,652,866 to £450,115.70 and for the confirmation of the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 5th day of February 1997. ANY Creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital and for the confirmation of the said cancellation of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 21st day of January 1997.
Martin P. Varley
Palmer Cowen
16 Berkeley Street
London W1X 5AE
Tel: 0171 491 7810
Ref: MPV/TRP
Solicitors for the above-named Company

BARDOT FABRICS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

Notice is given pursuant to the Companies Act 1985, section 175 that at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above-named Company ("the company") convened and held on 17 January 1997, a Special Resolution was passed:

Approving a form of contract providing for the purchase by the Company of 34,648 of its Ordinary shares of £1 each for the aggregate sum of £525,000 for redemption.

The statutory declaration of the directors of the Company and the auditor's report required by the Companies Act 1985, section 173(5), are available for inspection at the registered office of the company at Hogg Lane, Radcliffe On Trent, Nottinghamshire, NG12 2BL.

Any Creditor of the Company may at any time within the 5 weeks immediately following 17 January 1997, apply to the court under the Companies Act 1985, section 176, for an Order cancelling the Resolution or for other relief.

RE Savage, Secretary

Madam Faridah Begum d/o Taj Mohammed Khan of Blk 406 Bedok North Ave 3 #11-189 Singapore 460406, the wife of Mr Hameed Akbar Khan has declared her loyalty to her husband, Mr Hameed Akbar Khan before the President Syariah Court Singapore on 24.6.96. Mr Hameed Akbar Khan is hereby required to contact the President Syariah Court, 512 Thomson Road, 2nd Storey, Ministry of Community Development Building, Singapore 298136 or Tel. No. 3548213 immediately in order to arrange for the return of his wife to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOMITO Olympio, formerly of Accra, Ghana, please contact Ian Warren-Smith of South East Investigations Ltd, 33 London Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0PB, England where he may find something to his benefit and interest.

WOULD the former Miss Bala Tamat of Dar-es-Salaam, please contact Ian Warren-Smith of South East Investigations Ltd, 33 London Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 0PB, England, where she may find something to her benefit and interest.

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THE TIMES

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London W11 3BU

ON THIS DAY

January 24, 1928

Ernst Krenek's opera, Johnny spielt auf *or* Johnny Strikes Up, *which introduced jazz elements into an atonal structure, was first produced in Leipzig in 1927 and went on to achieve enormous success, though it also attracted criticism.*

MUSIC IN VIENNA.

A JAZZ OPERA.

No opera produced for the first time in Vienna lately has aroused more controversy than Krenek's "jazz" opera *Johnny Strikes Up*. It was given (the prices being enormously raised) to a packed house on New Year's Eve. A better occasion could not have been chosen, and approached in a holiday mood the opera proved a musicianly, amusing, and highly enjoyable evening's entertainment. The musical world and the Press, however, are sharply divided in their criticism of the opera, half of them maintaining that it is a "sacrilege" that such a work should have been allowed in the Opera House, the others championing the opera as a work of genius, in which the needs of modern conditions have been met. Certainly it is more successful than Hindemith's *Cardillac*, in which an attempt was made to depart from the stereotyped operatic forms.

Johnny was first produced in Leipzig early in 1927, and has been performed or accepted by 60 different theatres already — a remarkable achievement for a composer not yet 28 years old. Its great success throughout Germany is enough to make Vienna intensely suspicious of it. The hero is the negro Johnny — if hero he can be called — who swaggers through the opera, love-making, seducing, and stealing with skill and truculence. The story unfolds in a series of excellently staged episodes, the plot hinging on the theft of an Amati violin from the virtuoso Danielo.

A chance meeting between the composer Max and the singer Anita on a mountain path near a glacier opens the opera. There follow scenes in Anita's flat, in the corridor of an hotel in Paris (where Johnny and Danielo first appear), at a mountain hotel among the glaciers (where Anita's voice and Johnny's jazz band are heard from a loud speaker!), and with kaleidoscopic speed, a street with policemen chasing Johnny, the arrest of the wrong man in a railway station (this wonderfully staged and reminiscent of a Drury Lane melodrama, for poor Danielo is pushed under an advancing train), the escape of Johnny from his pursuers (a motor drive with rapidly moving scenery), and the final apotheosis of the negro fiddling on the top of the world to a vast stage crowded with tiny jazzing figures. The opera has blended the elements of melodrama, cinema, and revue to a remarkable degree, yet the conception is that of grand opera, demanding the apparatus of a big orchestra and operatic singers, and the score is scholarly and convincing. The libretto, which Krenek wrote himself, is also worth reading on its own account — vivacious, cynical, breathing the restlessness of post-War Europe. But above all the work is original and admirably worked out.

It was also very well staged and performed, Herr Jerger as Johnny carrying off the laurels of the evening. Among other feats he bounds on to the piano, violin in hand, whence he declaims a song of triumph in the style of a negro-spiritual. This song brought him a great ovation and had to be repeated. Frau Schumann was charming as Yvonne the chambermaid, and Fräulein Schwarz and Herr Pataky did some fine singing as the prima donna and the composer.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1997

NEWS

Major rules out EMU in 1999

■ John Major effectively ruled out British membership of a single European currency in 1999 with a hardened Cabinet line intended to unite the Tories in the run-up to the election.

The Government's most sceptical stance yet on monetary union was announced after a 90-minute Cabinet debate yesterday. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said it was "very unlikely" that Britain would sign up to the euro on the target date of January 1, 1999 .... **Pages 1, 12, 14, 23**

Girl was denied transplant

■ Michelle Paul, 15, died after she was refused a liver transplant by doctors at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on the "moral grounds" that she had experimented with drugs and her mother was a drug user, the mother told an inquiry. The family doctor supported her evidence .... **Page 1**

Tape ruled invalid

A man who was secretly taped confessing to his wife that he had tried to poison her walked free from the Old Bailey after a judge *ruled the recording was inadmissible as evidence* .... **Page 3**

Gang smashed

A gang believed to have smuggled more than 5,000 illegal immigrants into Britain, earning £20,000 a week, has been uncovered by a joint police operation in Britain and Holland .... **Page 4**

Spy murder theory

Sir Jack Drummond, murdered with his family in 1952 during a camping trip in the South of France, was the victim of a Soviet counter-espionage hit squad, according to a new book .... **Page 5**

Cadets under fire

Labour claimed that government proposals to encourage schoolchildren to become military cadets could cost taxpayers more than £1.5 billion .... **Page 6**

No more arts cash

The Arts Council provoked protests by announcing the share-out of its £186.1 million 1997 grant, which gives most clients no increase .... **Pages 8, 23, 39**

Off the road

Peaceful protests on public highways can be banned by the police, the High Court ruled in a test case of new public order legislation .... **Page 10**

Alzheimer's clue

The discovery that some people with traces of the cold sore virus in their brains are at much greater risk from Alzheimer's disease *could point to a way of preventing* it, scientists say .... **Page 11**

Euro-fighters

Germany's 17 million increasingly militant old age pensioners are emerging as the country's most powerful opponents to introducing the euro and scrapping the German mark .... **Pages 14, 23**

Papon for trial

The French Supreme Court ruled that Maurice Papon, the alleged Nazi collaborator, should be tried for crimes against humanity. His trial has been delayed for 15 years .... **Page 16**

Visa corruption

Metropolitan Police detectives are investigating widescale corruption concerning the sale of British visas to Nigerians, Scotland Yard confirmed .... **Page 17**

Clinton revelations

President Clinton's second-term honeymoon ended abruptly in a series of embarrassing revelations about American policy favours being sold .... **Page 18**

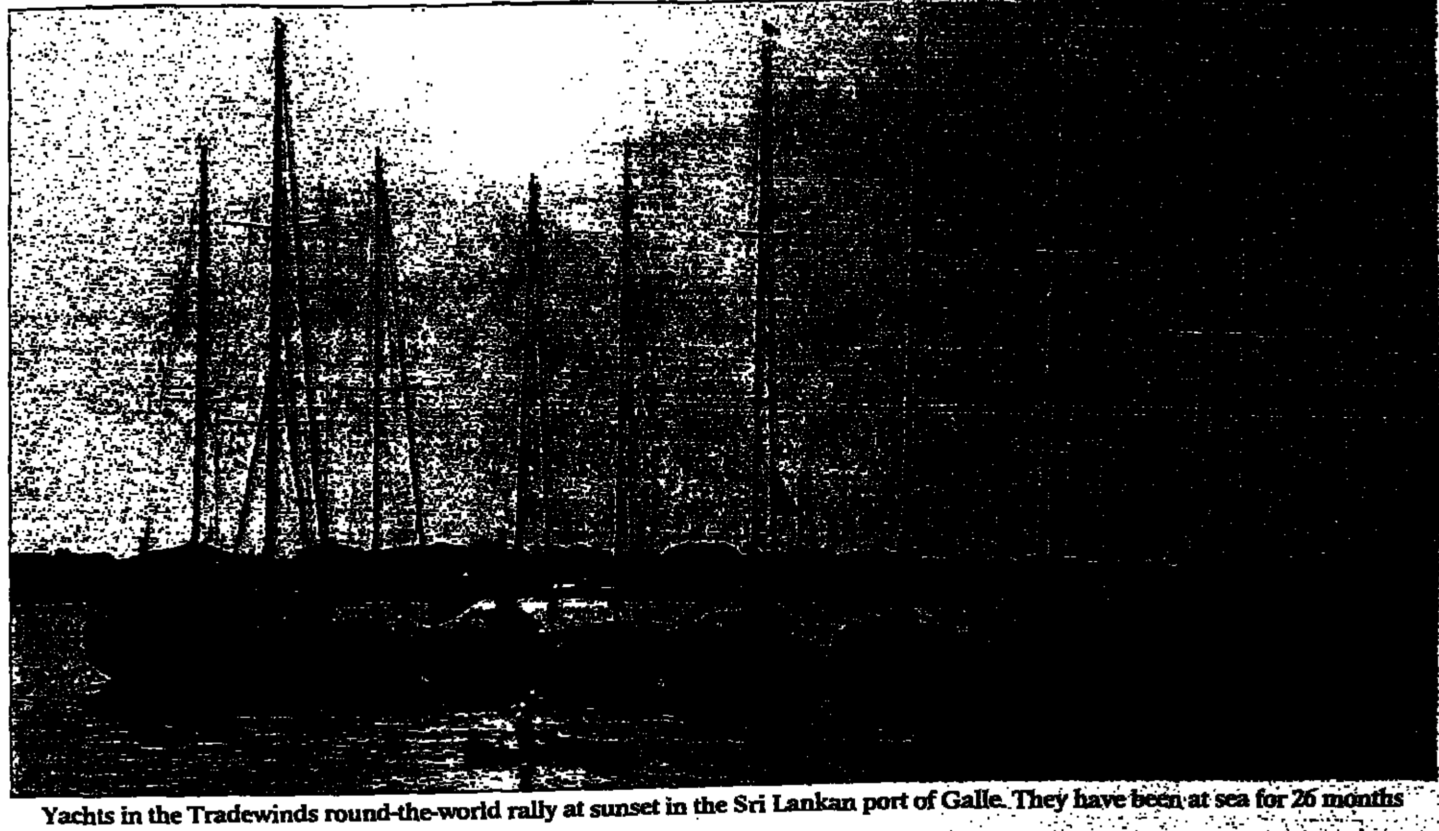
Sinn Fein donor

Sinn Fein's single largest contributor in America, an Irish-American businessman, has had to disclose records of donations to many Irish causes .... **Page 19**

Eigg may be poached for a song

■ The sale of Eigg, population 63, descended into confusion when it was claimed that the tenor Luciano Pavarotti was interested in setting up a European classical and operatic music college for 3,000 pupils on the Hebridean isle. Highland Council said the scheme was unsuitable and the islanders denounced it as absurd .... **Page 1**

ANURUDDHA LOKUHAPUARACHCHI/REUTERS



Yachts in the Tradewinds round-the-world rally at sunset in the Sri Lankan port of Galle. They have been at sea for 26 months

BUSINESS

Savers: A small investor has won *an unprecented victory in court* against a building society for paying uncompetitive rates of interest on savings .... **Page 27**

Bonuses: Hefty bonuses for City brokers are helping to fuel house prices in London's West End, according to John D Wood, the estate agent .... **Page 27**

Economy: The City expressed relief that the pound began to fall after its recent strong run had pushed it up to levels that made it difficult for exporters to compete .... **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 52.4 points to close at 4271.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 97.2 to 95.8 after a fall from $1.6539 to $1.6278 and from DM2.7142 to DM2.6685.... **Page 30**

SPORT

Tennis: Carlos Moya beat Michael Chang 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 to reach the final of the Australian Open. His opponent will be the winner of the other semi-final between Pete Sampras and Thomas Muster .... **Page 52**

Rugby union: France suspended their prop Franck Tournaire for one match for foul play against Ireland. Wales are unchanged for their Irish match .... **Page 48**

Football: With the England v Italy World Cup qualifying game next month in view, Italy's game against Northern Ireland was essentially a phoney war .... **Page 50**

Racing: Tony McCoy, the champion National Hunt jockey, is in danger of missing the Cheltenham Festival after breaking two bones in his left shoulder .... **Page 52**

ARTS

Lottery lifeline: Not for the first time, the Arts Council has come up with more money to bail out ailing arts bodies. Richard Morrison on the latest winners .... **Page 39**

Free spirits: Reef (a respectful anagram, geddit?) have hit a winning groove with their new album of hairy, heavy rock .... **Page 40**

Brettpop: Suede are back in the big time with a top ten single and an album heading for platinum: the singer Brett Anderson casts a wry eye over the band's troubled history .... **Page 41**

Passion v precision: White Town's hit *Your Woman* proved that the best music isn't always recorded in expensive studios. Bands should rediscover rock'n'roll excitement, says Caitlin Moran .... **Page 41**

[illegible]

Valerie Grove interviews Claudia Cardinale. Other sex kittens have come and gone, but this cat has grown into a tigress .... **Page 21**

Join the resistance: Murder and mugging rates are falling in New York, where crime has become unfashionable .... **Page 21**

A fashion dilemma: Should haute couture opt for sheer elegance or attention-seeking tactics to push up sales increase? .... **Page 20**

[illegible]

Difficult to sell: A boarding school's reputation is not enough to attract first-time families .... **Page 43**

Figure it out: Sometimes it is parents who need maths lessons to help with the homework ... **Page 45**

[illegible]

Private Health care: A report on the state of the medical insurance market, health in the workplace and care of the elderly .... **Pages 35-38**

[illegible]

In Occupied France, Jews were robbed; others placed their worldly goods in the coffers of neighbouring countries. How will they or their descendants be compensated? As in Switzerland these questions risk reawakening a latent anti-semitism. However, they must be asked. The Nazi gold is not a matter of accounting, but of justice and of memory — *Le Monde*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ MAGAZINE
Alan Jackson talks to Liv Tyler, the daughter of a rock 'n' roller and star of *That Thing You Do*

■ WEEKEND MONEY
A beginner's guide to the stock market by Martin Waller

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Nick Hancock enters sitcom territory as a single parent with a two-year-old. *Holding the Baby* (ITV, 8.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond says Albert Square is no place for a *man* .... **Page 51**

OPINION

Ruling out

Mr Blair now owes it to the electorate to spell out where he stands on the most critical question to face the country in decades .... **Page 23**

Rifkind's soapbox

Without playing John Bull in Europe's china shop, it is worth testing the idea that Britain's view of Europe is closer to that of ordinary Europeans than their political masters like to believe .... **Page 23**

Unstable policy

Popularisation, not stabilisation, should be the Arts Council's new watchword .... **Page 23**

[illegible]

MATTHEW PARRIS

Look at what happens to sex offenders in prison at the hands of other prisoners. Is the instinct to stigmatise and hurt such people to be whipped up beyond the prison *gates too?* .... **Page 22**

TIM CONGDON

The central reason why monetary union must result in political union is simple. Fiscal policy — the control of public expenditure and taxation — *is the cherished* prerogative of all national parliaments. It follows that monetary policy can be centralised only if fiscal policy is also centralised, and that is the end of national sovereignty .... **Page 22**

PETER RIDDELL

If Labour wins the election, it is still unlikely that Britain would join a single currency in a first wave, not least because a Blair government would have so much else to do. The door may be virtually closed after yesterday, but it has not yet been locked and bolted .... **Page 12**

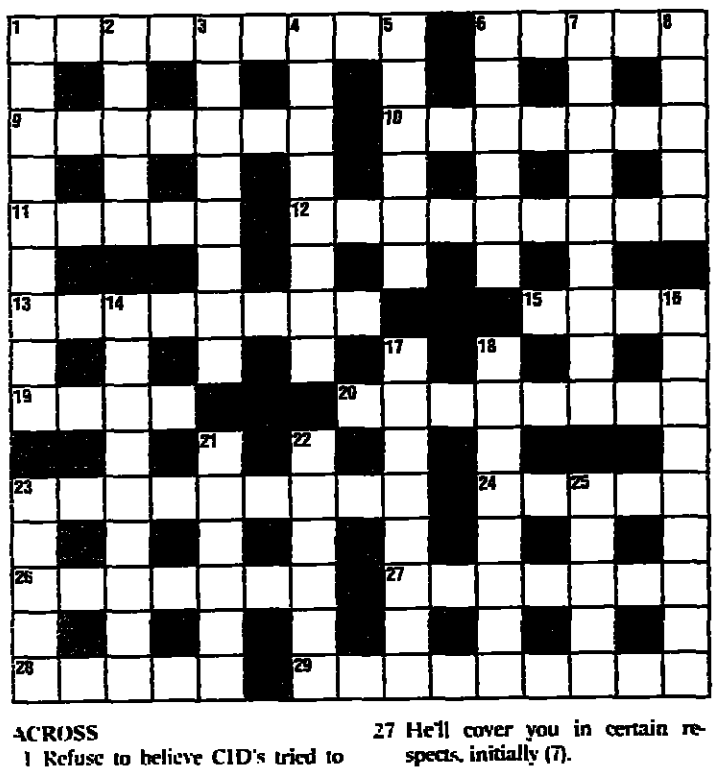
OBITUARIES

"Colonel" Tom Parker, Elvis Presley's manager; **Myfanwy Piper**, librettist and art critic; ***Sir Tobias Rodgers, Bt,*** *antiquarian* bookseller .... **Page 25**

LETTERS

New Royal Yacht; genetically modified foods; European integration; rabies; Cyprus .... **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,385



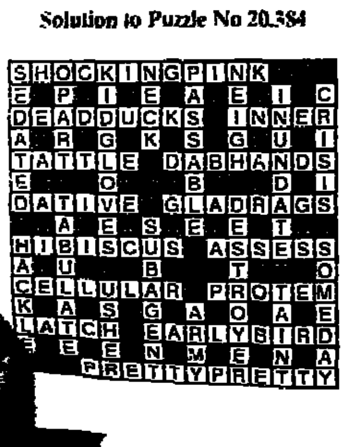
ACROSS

1 Refuse to believe CID's tried to *reform* (9).
6 Stroke fawn (5).
9 Fur seal destroyed? No (7).
10 People who watch large black and white set finally get colour (7).
11 Horse doctor swallowing whiskey (5).
12 Soldier regained rank? Right (9).
13 High spirits when exam has taken place – that could be capital (8).
15 Quickly repaired shelter, say (4).
19 *Survive, after all* (4).
20 Business with deficit – American giant (8).
23 *No officer around* is free from state control (9).
24 Park in station (5).
26 *Learned English and Italian,* in short (7).
27 He'll cover you in certain respects, initially (7).
28 Credence Mum's given to fairy (5).
29 Military hand bars women – that's wrong (3,6).

DOWN

1 Knock up quick runs coming in totally without fear (9).
2 Filthy home of covert wet (5).
3 Joint sprained, we're told, is handicap (8).
4 Representative given instruction to remove barrier (8).
5 Point to neck and shoulder covering (6).
6 May commanding officer turn up for a drink? (6).
7 The last word, namely, in its facilities (9).
8 Leaders of losing armies take early retirement afterwards (5).
14 Having moved, I've sublet the hall (9).
16 Discovered in falsehood, is char getting sack? (9).
17 Only one warrant officer around to make mistake (8).
18 For instance, German communist gets on top of problem (8).
21 Charges gunmen caught up in quarrel (6).
22 Several birds (6).
23 Force to serve jam (5).
25 Expressed thanks to cast (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,384



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.46in; highest sunshine: Herne Bay, Kent, 5.5hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** after a misty start in the South East, cloud and rain will spread across England and Wales from the North West, eventually reaching London and East Anglia during the evening. Brighter weather will follow to northern parts by then. Despite being windy in the West, temperatures will reach normal

Cloud and rain will sweep southeast across Scotland and Northern Ireland during the morning. Brighter, mainly dry, weather will follow to most parts by midday, Shetland by late afternoon. It will be windy for a time, with gales in places, with temperatures slightly above normal

☐ **London, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, SW England:** misty start, but cloud *and rain from northwest by evening.* Wind south becoming west later light or moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SE England, Channel Isles:** bright and mainly dry, after early mist and fog. Wind south or southeast mainly light. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **W Midlands, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N, NE England, Aberdeen, Orkney:** rain soon from west, clearing through the afternoon. Wind south fresh becoming northwest light. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland:** wet start, but sunny spells by midday. Wind south fresh or strong becoming northwest moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** wet start, but sunshine and the odd shower by *midday. Wind south, gale force,* becoming northwest then west moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Shetland:** mostly cloudy and wet; rain clearing by evening. Wind southeast gale becoming northwest moderate later. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain slowly clearing Kent, otherwise sunny after overnight frost and fog. Rain in North West later.

AROUND BRITAIN

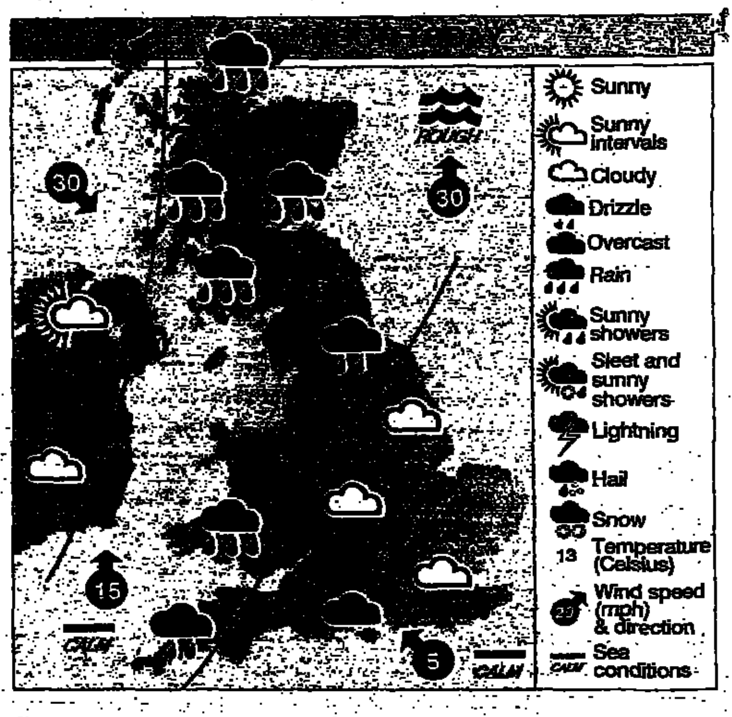
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.0	-	3	37	s	Leuchars	4.9	-	3	37	s
Anglesey	-	0.01	5	41	r	Littlehmptn	-	0.28	8	46	c
Aspatria	-	0.01	0	32	d	London	-	0.19	9	48	du
Aviemore	6.1	-	3	37	s	Lowestoft	-	0.01	7	45	d
Belfast	-	-	3	37	du	Manchester	-	0.19	2	36	fg
Birmingham	-	0.12	4	39	d	Minehead	-	0.06	5	41	fg
Bognor R	-	0.24	7	45	du	Morecambe	-	0.04	2	36	sn
Bournem'th	0.8	0.20	9	48	r	Newcastle	-	0.02	2	36	sl
Bristol	-	0.13	7	45	d	Newquay	X				
Buxton	-	0.26	1	34	d	Norwich	-	0.04	7	45	d
Cardiff	-	0.04	4	39	fg	Oxford	X				
Clacton	-	-	5	41	c	Penzance	X	0.28	7	45	d
Cleethorpes	X					Poole	0.9	0.23	9	48	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.06	4	39	r	Prestatyn	X	0.02	3	37	sn
Cromer	-	0.03	5	41	d	Ross-o-Wye	-	0.09	4	39	fg
Dunbar	X					Sandown	-	0.19	7	45	r
Eastbourne	-	0.06	8	46	c	Saunton Snd	-	0.11	7	45	du
Edinburgh	-	-	1	34	c	Scarboro'	-	0.23	3	37	sl
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	-1	30	du	Shanklin	-	0.22	8	46	r
Exmouth	-	0.07	8	46	fg	Shrewsbury	X				
Falmouth	-	0.17	7	45	du	Skegness	-	0.16	4	39	sh
Fishguard	-	0.03	3	37	d	Southend	X				
Folkestone	-	0.05	7	45	r	Southport	X				
Guernsey	-	0.36	10	50	r	Southsea	-	0.13	7	45	r
Hastings	-	0.09	7	45	c	Stornoway	-	0.01	6	43	c
Hayling I.	-	0.20	6	43	r	Swanage	0.7	0.19	8	46	sh
Herne Bay	-	0.01	7	45	du	Teignmouth	-	0.09	8	46	du
Hove	-	X	7	45	du	Tenby	-	0.05	5	41	d
Hunstanton	X	0.09	5	41	r	Tiree	1.6	-	5	41	c
Isle of Man	-	-	3	37	du	Torquay	-	0.18	8	46	d
Jersey	0.1	0.37	9	48	r	Tynemouth	-	0.01	1	34	du
Kinloss	6.1	-	5	41	s	Ventnor	-	0.26	7	45	fg
Leeds	-	0.03	3	37	d	West-s-mare	-	0.09	7	45	du
Lerwick	0.3	0.01	6	43	sh	Weymouth	0.8	0.07	8	46	b

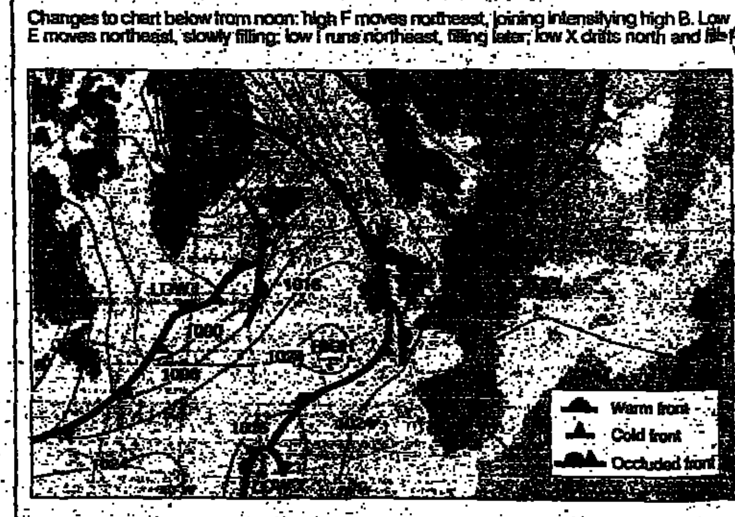
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	16	61	s	Madrid	10	50	c	Riyadh	15	59	s
Akrotiri	16	61	f	C'phagn	0	32	c	Majorca	17	63	d	Rome	X		
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	2	36	c	Malaga	11	52	f	S Fr'isco	13	55	r
Algiers	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Malta	X			S Paulo	X		
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Faro	14	57	s	Melb'rne	16	61	r	Salzburg	0	32	c
Athens	11	52	c	Florence	X			Mexico C	17	63	s	Santiago	29	84	s
B Aires	31	88	f	Frankfurt	3	37	s	Miami	24	75	s	Seoul	-4	25	s
Bahrain	17	63	s	Funchal	15	59	f	Milan	X			Sing'por	31	88	t
Bangkok	30	86	f	Geneva	3	37	r	Montreal	3	37	f	St'kholm	1	34	s
Barbados	28	82	f	Gibraltar	14	57	f	Moscow	-1	30	c	Strasb'rg	1	34	r
Barcelona	16	61	f	Helsinki	1	34	f	Munich	2	36	c	Sydney	29	84	s
Beirut	13	55	s	Hong K	16	61	f	N Delhi	12	54	s	Tangier	16	61	f
Belgrade	1	34	c	Innsbrck	7	45	s	N York	8	46	s	Tel Aviv	13	55	r
Berlin	3	37	s	Istanbul	6	43	f	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tenerife	18	64	c
Bermuda	15	59	c	Jeddah	23	73	s	Naples	X			Tokyo	4	39	s
Biarritz	17	63	c	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Nice	16	61	c	Toronto	6	43	r
Borde'x	16	61	s	Karachi	X			Oslo	1	34	c	Tunis	18	65	s
Brussels	11	52	c	L Angels	12	54	c	Paris	10	50	f	Valencia	13	55	f
Budapst	-4	25	fg	L Palmas	18	64	f	Peking	-2	28	f	Vanc'ver	8	46	c
Cairo	17	63	f	Le Touqt	9	48	f	Perth	28	82	s	Venice	X		
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Lisbon	9	48	s	Prague	-1	30	c	Vienna	-1	30	fg
Ch'church	29	84	X	Locarno	6	43	fg	Reykjavik	0	32	f	Warsaw	3	37	s
Chicago	4	39	f	Luxembg	3	37	r	Rhodes	15	59	s	Wel'ngton	20	68	X
Cologne	7	45	f	Luxor	20	68	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Zurich	3	37	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: high F moves northeast, joining intensifying high B. Low E moves northeast, slowly filling; low I runs northeast, filling later; low X drifts north and fills



TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	02.15	7.0	14.36	7.0	Leith	03.05	5.3	15.23	5.4
Aberdeen	01.47	4.1	13.56	4.3	Liverpool	11.45	9.2	-	-
Avonmouth	07.41	12.8	20.03	12.7	Lowestoft	10.14	2.4	22.09	2.6
Belfast	11.39	3.6	23.53	3.2	Margate	00.17	4.5	12.43	4.4
Cardiff	07.27	11.8	19.49	11.8	Milford Haven	06.42	6.7	19.00	6.6
Devonport	06.12	5.3	18.30	5.1	Newquay	05.33	6.7	17.51	6.6
Dover	11.33	6.3	23.51	6.5	Oban	06.04	3.9	18.33	3.8
Dublin (N Wall)	-	-	12.07	4.1	Penzance	05.04	5.4	17.21	5.3
Falmouth	05.43	5.1	18.01	4.9	Portland	07.21	1.9	19.48	1.7
Greenock	01.09	3.1	12.57	3.4	Portsmouth	11.41	4.5	-	-
Harwich	00.07	3.7	12.27	3.7	Shoreham	11.37	6.0		
Holyhead	10.51	5.5	23.09	5.3	Southampton	11.12	4.4	23.33	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	06.51	8.1	19.00	8.5	Swansea	06.42	9.2	19.00	9.1
Ilfracombe	06.25	8.8	18.45	8.8	Tees	-			
King's Lynn	06.55	6.2	19.02	6.6	Walton-on-N	00.50	3.9	12.20	3.8

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

[illegible]

Sun rises: 7.50 am — Sun sets: 4.36 pm

Moon sets: 7.49 am — Moon rises: 5.54 pm

Last quarter January 31

London 4.36 pm to 7.49 am
Bristol 4.46 pm to 7.58 am
Edinburgh 4.29 pm to 8.20 am
Manchester 4.36 pm to 8.05 am
Penzance 5.03 pm to 8.05 am

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